Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-041
Wednesday
2 March 1994

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-041 *2 March 1994*

CONTENTS

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

News Conference Held on CIS Defense Ministers' Meeting *[Moscow Radio]* 1
Gromov, Samsonov Named CIS Defense Ministers Council Heads *[MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS 1 Mar]* 1
Samsonov Sees 'Growing Interest' in Defense Cooperation *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 1 Mar]* 1
Coordinating Committee Discusses CIS Economic Union *[INTERFAX]* 1
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 2 Mar 2

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Military Employee Worked for British Intelligence *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
More on Arrest of Suspected British Agent *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
Agent Not Connected to Ames Case *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
No Comment From UK Establishment *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
Agent Worked for Artillery Firm *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
'Spy' Said To Plead Guilty *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 2 Mar]* 5
Zhirinovskiy Denies Weapons Obtained Via Ames *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Intelligence Official Stresses Cooperation With U.S. *[Moscow TV]* 5
Commentary Regrets Politicization of Ames Affair *[Moscow International]* 6
'Firmness' Against U.S. 'Hysteria' Needed *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 1 Mar]* 6
FIS, CIA Want Cooperation *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 2 Mar]* 8
Kozyrev Hails Agreement to Unblock Tuzla Airport *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
Karadzic Says U.S. Must Not Monopolize Peace Process *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
Welcomes Yeltsin Summit Initiative *[INTERFAX]* 9
Meets State Duma Speaker *[INTERFAX]* 10
Rybkin Criticizes NATO for Downing Bosnia Planes *[Belgrade TANJUG]* 10
Newsmen Briefed on Russian Moves in Bosnia *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 1 Mar]* 10
Adamishin on Bosnia Initiative, Situation *[Lisbon EXPRESSO 26 Feb]* 11
Kozyrev, Israel's Peres Discuss Hebron Situation *[INTERFAX]* 12
Comments on Efforts to Achieve Peace *[Moscow TV]* 13
Diplomat Gives Yeltsin Message to 'Arafat *[Radio Rossii]* 14
Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on West Bank *[Moscow TV]* 14
Moscow Urges 'New International Impulse' in Mideast *[INTERFAX]* 14
Commentary on Need for Continuing Arab-Israeli Talks *[Moscow International]* 14
Israel's 'Only Choice' Is To Expedite Palestinian Autonomy *[IZVESTIYA 1 Mar]* 15
Yeltsin Welcomes Uzbek President *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
Presidents Sign Accord *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
Russians, Ukrainians Cooperate on Launch *[INTERFAX]* 16
Grachev Leaves Norway for Moscow *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
Shokhin Gives Statement After G-7 Meeting *[TRUD 1 Mar]* 16
Commentary Views DPRK Nuclear Inspection Issue *[Moscow Radio]* 17

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

Investigation Into Oct Unrest Continues *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
Defendants Assert Innocence *[Russian TV]* 18
Defendants Warned Against Lawbreaking *[Moscow Radio]* 18
Rutskoy Accepts Legitimacy of New Legislature *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
Yeltsin Press Service Says No TV Address Planned *[MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS 2 Mar]* 19
Planned Edict 'Fairly Menacing' *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 2 Mar]* 19
Staff 'Bewildered' by Ilyushenko Appointment *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 2 Mar]* 19

Golushko's Ouster Said Linked to Kazannik *[MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS 2 Mar]* 19
Yeltsin Edict on General Prosecutor's Resignation *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 1 Mar]* 20
Khasbulatov Interviewed on Release From Jail *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 1 Mar]* 20
Former Lefortovo Inmate Anpilov Interviewed *[PRAVDA 1 Mar]* 21
Yeltsin Aides Hold Briefing on Amnesty Decree *[IZVESTIYA 1 Mar]* 22
Filatov Comments on Amnesty Issues *[Moscow TV]* 23
Colonel Achalov Discusses Amnesty, Future Plans *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 1 Mar]* 23
Situation After Prisoners' Release Examined *[Russian TV]* 24
Implications of Lefortovo Prisoners Release Eyed *[TRUD 1 Mar]* 24
Kostikov Responds to Criticisms of Yeltsin *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 24 Feb]* 25
Yeltsin Aides Discuss Administration Setup *[St. Petersburg TV]* 28
Kremlin Expert Views Yeltsin's Decisionmaking *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 1 Mar]* 29
Former Finance Minister Views Yeltsin Message *[IZVESTIYA 1 Mar]* 30
Yeltsin Appoints Livshits To Head Team of Experts *[Moscow Radio]* 31
Chernomyrdin Returns to Duty After Illness *[Moscow Radio]* 31
TV Official Views Ostankino's Future *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 26 Feb]* 31

Military & Space Issues

Grachev Issues Order on Army Recruitment *[Moscow Radio]* 32
Research Satellite Launched From Plesetsk Pad *[ITAR-TASS]* 32

Federal Assembly

State Duma Issues Statement on Amnesty Memorandum *[ITAR-TASS]* 32
Rybkin on Talks With Yeltsin, Need for Accord *[Moscow Radio]* 33
Rybkin Warns Coup Plotters Against Destabilization *[ITAR-TASS]* 33
Rybkin To Quiz Amnestied Opposition in Parliament *[SEGODNYA 1 Mar]* 34

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Ministry Rejects Declaration on Russian Bases *[Kiev Radio]* 35
Clinton Said To Advise Kravchuk on New Premier *[UNIAN]* 35
Kravchuk News Conference on U.S. Visit *[Kiev International]* 35
Advisor Previews U.S. Visit *[UNIAN]* 37

National Affairs

Supreme Council Appeals for Responsibility at Elections *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 26 Feb]* 38
Kravchuk Edict on Reserves, New Call Up *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 25 Feb]* 38
Some Conscripts' Tours Extended *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 25 Feb]* 39
Kravchuk Discusses Future of Nuclear Power *[INTERFAX]* 39
Nuclear Power Official on Problems Facing Stations *[Moscow Radio]* 39
Defense Minister Presents New Air Force Commander *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 26 Feb]* 40
Crimean President Gets Parties' Support *[KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA 22 Feb]* 40
Crimean Vice Premier 'Cautious' on Issues *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 26 Feb]* 40
Saburov Discusses Initial Plans *[KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA 24 Feb]* 40
Crimea Official on Kiev Economic Talks *[KRYMSKAYA GAZETA 24 Feb]* 42

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Hryb Urges Economic Union With Russia *[Minsk Radio]* 45
Parliament Head Hryb Criticizes Press Attacks *[Minsk Radio]* 45
Parliament Reportedly Approves Presidential Post *[INTERFAX]* 45

Moldova

President Snegur on Nationwide Poll, 14th Army *[IZVESTIYA 25 Feb]* 45
Snegur on New Constitution, CIS *[INTERFAX]* 47
European Observers 'Satisfied' With Elections *[BASAPRESS]* 47
NATO Observers on Results *[BASAPRESS]* 47
Party Officials Comment on Results *[BASAPRESS]* 47
Parliament To Continue Activity *[BASAPRESS]* 48

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Says Russia 'Priority Partner' *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 26 Feb]* 49
Last Strategic Bombers Leave Kazakhstan *[Moscow International]* 49

Tajikistan

CIS Troops To Remain Until Dec 1994 *[ITAR-TASS]* 49
Rakhmanov Receives Russian Deputy Foreign Minister *[Dushanbe Radio]* 49

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Karabakh Warns on Azeri Cease-Fire Violation *[SNARK]* 50
Foreign Minister Protests Azeri Air Raids *[SNARK]* 50
Russian Troops' Status Still Not Approved *[SNARK]* 50

Azerbaijan

Baku Accused of Cease-Fire Violation *[INTERFAX]* 50
Aliyev Talks With Minsk Group Chairman *[AZERTAC]* 50
Aliyev Holds Talks With Yeltsin Envoy *[AZERTAC]* 51
Aliyev Holds News Conference on UK Visit *[Baku International]* 51
U.S. Citizen, Others Detained for Illegal Crossing *[Baku TV]* 51
News Agency Says Police Prevent Normal Work *[TURAN]* 51
Paper Appeals Subjection to 'Persecution' *[TURAN]* 51
Further on AZADLYG, TURAN Troubles *[TURAN]* 52

Georgia

Parliament Votes To Join CIS Charter *[ITAR-TASS]* 52
Shevardnadze Address on Joining CIS *[Tbilisi Radio]* 52
Further on Shevardnadze, CIS *[Tbilisi Radio]* 54
Georgia Supportive of Russian Peacekeeping Troops *[INTERFAX]* 55
New Constitution Provides for Unitarian State *[ITAR-TASS]* 55
Official Comments on Armenian Declarations *[SNARK]* 55

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Foreign Ministry Statement on Russian Withdrawal *[BNS]* 56
Russian Official Comments *[BNS]* 56
Negotiator on Udaltsov Remarks *[BNS]* 56
Prime Minister Warns Russian Talks Near Deadlock *[ETA]* 57
President Visits Helsinki, Discusses Security *[ETA]* 57

Latvia

Foreign Ministry Reacts to Skrunda Explosion *[INTERFAX]* 57
Russian Forces Issue Statement *[Riga Radio]* 58
Russian Foreign Ministry Reaction *[Riga Radio]* 58
Fire at Paldiski Russian Military Base *[Riga Radio]* 58
Officials Comment on Yeltsin Report at Parliament *[BNS]* 58

Lithuania

Army Chief Denies Russian Servicemen in Lithuania *[INTERFAX]* 58
Russian Diplomat Dismisses PRAVDA Report *[BNS]* 59
Minister on Continued Russian Oil Supplies *[BNS]* 59
President Remains Most Popular Politician *[BNS]* 59

News Conference Held on CIS Defense Ministers' Meeting

LD0103112894 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1450 GMT 28 Feb 94

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] A news conference was held in Moscow today on the results of the session of the defense ministers of the CIS countries. Kirill Shakhnovich reports.

[Shakhnovich] Taking part in this session from 24-25 February were delegations of the military departments of eleven states of the Commonwealth. The session resulted in the adoption and signing of such important documents as:

—a decision on the confirmation of the statute on the council of defense ministers;

—a decision on the secretariat of the council of defense ministers of the participating states;

—a decision on the establishment of the coordination staff and the principles of its makeup;

—a decision on additional measures for the stabilization of the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border; and also,

—a decision on the period of the presence of collective peacekeeping forces in the Republic of Tajikistan;

—a decision on the interstate commission for military-technological cooperation of the CIS member-states; this decision is popular because even those countries who do not participate in this bloc can come to this commission and because the problem of replenishment of military spare parts is a highly acute one for all armies today.

And the final point, which was signed by the eleven states of the Commonwealth, refers to the preparation of draft documents on the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the victory in the Great Fatherland War of 1941-1945.

Here in particular is what was said at today's news conference by Viktor Samsonov, the head of the staff for coordination of the armed forces of the CIS Countries:

[Begin Samsonov recording] As for seeking to set up a system of collective security, this of course involves the signing of a treaty on collective security, and we propose that at some point we shall set up joint armed forces of the Commonwealth countries which will form the basis of a system of collective security of the whole Commonwealth, and of each state individually. There is an analogy here with the NATO bloc, but without rejecting totally the experience of NATO, which has functioned for a long time now, I would say that there is much in the experience of the CIS states that is its own and special to it, experience which has not come directly from other states, but of course there will be mutual experience.

However, the setting up of collective security naturally is being more and more understood among the states of the Commonwealth, and this is shown by the preceding session in Ashgabat, where another three states entered the signing of the treaty on collective security. [end recording]

Gromov, Samsonov Named CIS Defense Ministers Council Heads

MK0103090094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 1 Mar 94 p 2

[Unattributed report under the "Round the Clock Non-Stop" rubric: "Boris Gromov Becomes Chairman"]

[Text] The reforming of the CIS Joint Armed Forces High Command got under way as of yesterday. The new structure—a staff for coordination and cooperation—will be more international. Whereas the majority of positions were taken earlier by officers of Russia, now 50 percent of the staff has been assigned to the republics. But the collective security will be financed in the same proportion.

All in all, there will remain 240 people on the staff's payroll. Its work will be directed by the chairman of the Defense Ministers council. This position will be filled in turn by generals from all the republics. Russian Deputy Defense Minister Boris Gromov has been appointed the first chairman. The new staff will also have a permanent position, that of deputy chairman. He will be Colonel General Samsonov, chief of staff of the CIS Joint Armed Forces High Command. The deputy chairman was also granted the right to vote over Russia's objections.

Samsonov Sees 'Growing Interest' in Defense Cooperation

PM0103144794 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Mar 94 p 1

[Gennadiy Miranovich report: "Council of CIS Defense Ministers Acquires New Quality"]

[Text] The Council of CIS Defense Ministers has acquired a new quality. And Colonel General Viktor Samsonov, chief of the Staff for Coordinating Military Cooperation, commented that this does not only stem from the Statute on the Council of Commonwealth Defense Ministers that has been adopted.

As you know, in connection with a number of new states subscribing to the Treaty on Collective Security this body, which previously also performed political functions, is now the Collective Security Council's main consultative body on military questions. Commenting on the results of the latest session of the Council of Defense Ministers 24-25 February, Col. Gen. Samsonov also pointed to the growing interest among the independent states' military departments in strengthening defense cooperation.

Coordinating Committee Discusses CIS Economic Union

LD0103130694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1220 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] An open two-day sitting of CIS coordinating-consultative committee (CCC) headed by Russia's Economics Minister Aleksandr Shokhin started its work on

Tuesday [1 March] in Moscow. The sitting is to discuss a package of agreements on practical implementation of the treaty on economic union between the Commonwealth's countries.

The conference is to consider a protocol to the agreement concerning general conditions and mechanisms to support development of cooperation between industrial enterprises and the various sectors, an agreement on cooperation in the sphere of labor migration and social security for workers-migrants.

In addition, the session is scheduled to discuss a package of documents of a humanitarian nature: on benefits and guarantees to the veterans of the WW II, Afghan war veterans, and families of perished servicemen, on preparation for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Victory Day, on citizens' rights in the sphere of benefits and compensations for children, as well as other issues.

The vice premiers will first discuss proposals to the agenda of the upcoming summit of heads of CIS governments and states.

According to Korotchenya, the session is supposed to discuss a package of military problems as well.

Korotchenya reported to Interfax that the issue on Ukraine's joining the economic union as an associate member had not been prepared yet. He explained that it is difficult to solve this issue in a situation where Kiev has not signed the CIS Charter nor other important documents of the Commonwealth, has not determined the conditions and mechanisms for Ukraine's participation in CIS projects.

Korotchenya added that the issue on Ukraine's associate membership in the economic union would be probably solved at the summit of CIS leaders.

As Korotchenya, CIS executive secretary, said, Kazakhstan's Prime Minister Sergei Tereshchenko voiced an initiative to unite separate sittings of the council of heads of governments and the council of the heads of states scheduled for March into a joint sitting on March 31 in Moscow. The present task of the CCC is to prepare documents for a CIS summit.

Korotchenya also reported that in the course of his meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev on Monday in Moscow they reached an agreement to hold a joint session of the CIS Council of Foreign Ministers and CIS Council of Defense Ministers.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 2 Mar

LD0203110894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0644 GMT 2 Mar 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow March 2 TASS—PRAVDA runs a statement by former Russian Prosecutor-General Aleksey Kazannik, who, in explanation of his resignation, maintains that he was pressurised on the part of President Boris Yeltsin, since a message from Baturin, assistant to the president on state security, suggested that "the act of amnesty be not enacted or be at least dragged out". In this connection Kazannik emphasises that "the prosecutor's office has not right to legislative initiative. It does not discuss acts but accurately and undeviatingly applies normative-legal acts".

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI reports that "upon release, Russia's former Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy applied to former parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov in a proposal to convene an extraordinary congress of the people's deputies of Russia. This was announced on Tuesday by presidential chief of staff Sergey Filatov when he was introducing Aleksey Ilyushenko to the staff of the office of the prosecutor-general. Ilyushenko was appointed acting prosecutor- general of the Russian Federation by a presidential decree."

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI on recent developments: "The events of the recent days have shown once again the weakness of state power, the need to strengthen which was mentioned by the president in his message to the Federal Assembly. Not just the weakness of all its elements but complete mismatch in their functioning.

"It has turned out that we have got a not so strong constitution if the need for its interpretation arose when it was necessary to take a serious decision"

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA on the crisis of power in Moscow:

"All maintain that the current crisis of power in Moscow has been provoked by the State Duma's well-known decision on a political amnesty. However, it is now clear that the crisis was triggered by no means by the Duma decision but by the attitude of former Prosecutor-General Aleksey Kazannik (and, apparently, that of former chief of the Federal Counterintelligence Service Nikolay Golushko).

"Presidential assistants' incoherent reasoning, because of which they are blamed for lack of professionalism and efficiency, proves not the lack of the assistants' professionalism but the non- professinalism of the order issued to them—to give explanations at a press conference. How can they give explanations when Kazannik is backed by law and they are backed only by their boss's instruction?"

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carries an interview with State Duma speaker Ivan Rybkin, who expresses his opinion about the announced amnesty. He said "the amnesty is intended for a sufficiently long period of time. According to the president's legislative initiative, a total of 222,000 people are to be released from places of confinement, plus those who were involved in the events of the August of 1991, May, September and October 1993.

"It so happened that due to insufficiently efficient interaction of authorities, there was a certain inconsistency in the realisation of the decisions taken. All this undoubtedly brings about certain problems in society," Rybkin said.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA runs an article by Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

"It has long become clear that in present-day conditions an aggressive nationalism, the Brezhnev and 'Berlin Wall' doctrines, domination ambitions, and 'sanitary cordones' are unacceptable," he writes.

"It is now essential to ensure stability and security for the entire Europe and jointly overcome ethnic conflicts... it is important now not to lose the positive movement momentum created by Presdient Boris Yeltsin's initiative which led to a major breakthrough in lifting the siege of Sarajevo.

"Energetic and joint actions are necessary. Individual powers and their associations, including NATO, will find their place and make their contributions within the context of combined efforts".

VECHERNYY PETERBURG reports that the assembly of lower panels in the Amber Room of the Catherine Palace in Tsarskoye Selo is nearing completion. Over the past nine years local restorers have made anew almost 40 percent of panels.

The main restoring work will apparently have to be suspended because not a single gramme of amber has come from Kaliningrad over a period of almost three years. All amber is exported from there at commercial prices.

Military Employee Worked for British Intelligence

LD0103145494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1406 GMT 1 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Palariya]

[Text] Moscow, 1 Mar— On 15 January the Federal Counter-Intelligence Service halted the espionage activities of a senior employee at one of Russia's defense-industry enterprises, who had been recruited by the British secret services.

Criminal proceedings have commenced, ITAR-TASS was told by the Federal Counter-Intelligence Service. The arrested man was charged on 25 January with betrayal of the homeland, to which he has confessed in full.

Preliminary investigations have provided evidence that the accused was provided with special equipment for espionage (ciphers and instructions on how to secretly communicate in Moscow with intelligence at the British embassy).

In return for money, the Russian citizen gathered and passed on to the British secret services classified information of a military and economic nature.

More on Arrest of Suspected British Agent

LD0103151194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1447 GMT 1 Mar 94

["Urgent" item by ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Palariya]

[Text] Moscow March 1 TASS—The Russian counterintelligence service arrested a leading Russian official from an organisation of the military-industrial complex who was spying for British secret services.

The arrested is charged with treason in the form of espionage, TASS was told by the Federal Counterintelligence Service on Tuesday which added that the spy had been arrested on January 15 and faced criminal charges on January 25.

The service said that, according to preliminary investigation, the official was equipped with special spying devices (cyphers, instructions on using hiding-places for supplying information to the British Embassy in Moscow).

"On orders of British special services and for monetary remuneration the Russian citizen collected and passed classified information of military and economic character", the service said.

The counterintelligence service said the spy had sold information on the latest Russian research in new armaments and their technical characteristics, on financing military research and development, on the state and prospects of Russian military cooperation with foreign countries.

Agent Not Connected to Ames Case

LD0103162594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1548 GMT 1 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Palariya]

[Text] Moscow March 1 TASS—The Russian counter-intelligence service arrested a leading Russian official from an organisation of the military-industrial complex for spying for the British secret services.

The Russian military prosecutor's office is carrying out the investigation.

The arrested man is charged with treason in the form of espionage, TASS was told by a source in the Federal Counterintelligence Service on Tuesday who added that the spy had been arrested on January 15, and admitted to the charges on January 25.

The service said that, according to preliminary investigation, the official had been supplied with materials for invisible writing amd means of secretly passing information to his control in the British embassy in Moscow.

"On orders from the British special services and for monetary remuneration, the Russian citizen collected and passed (to a foreign power) classified information of military and economic character", the source said.

The counter-intelligence service source said the spy had sold data about Russia's latest research in the field of new armaments and their technical characteristics, on financing military research and development, on the state and prospects of Russian military cooperation with other countries.

Speaking to ITAR-TASS, a service spokesman, Aleksandr Mikhailov stressed that the arrest "is in no way connected with the Ames' case", but noted that while the American court has yet to prove aims' guilt, "the arrested spy was caught in the action with all the spying devices on him".

A British embassy official, directly out of a working meeting with a London official in the embassy, declined to comment, saying the embassy would not normally issue comments for the press. She denied the meeting in the embassy had anything to do with the case.

No Comment From UK Establishment

LD0103164394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1606 GMT 1 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nataliya Kirsanova]

[Text] London March 1 TASS—The British Foreign Office has made no comments on the ITAR-TASS report about the arrest of a Russian citizen accused of spying for Great Britain.

A Foreign Office representative said he will make no comments, same as any other British governmental establishment.

Agent Worked for Artillery Firm

LD0203115894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0941 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow, 2 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian citizen recruited by British special services, who was arrested on 15 January this year, was a leading employee of the SMM (Special Engineering and Metallurgy) joint-stock company, set up on the basis of enterprises belonging to the former USSR Ministry of Defense Industry. SMM worked on state programs in the sphere of armor and artillery systems. This is disclosed in the Wednesday edition of the newspaper 'Segodnya', which quotes Aleksandr Mikhaylov, head of the public relations centre of the Federal Counterintelligence Service.

In its article on the detained agent, the newspaper says that the level of this post could illustrate the fact that he had the possibility of direct access to representatives of the legal British intelligence mission, which used the embassy as "cover."

The arrested person is accused of passing on top secret information to a foreign special service. The information concerned the latest armaments systems and Russia's overall defense potential. On 25 February he was charged under Article 64, Sub-Section "A" (treason ... [passage indistinct]

'Spy' Said To Plead Guilty

MK0203092094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 94 p 1

[Maksim Isayev report under the "Arrest" rubric: "The Federal Counterintelligence Service (FCS) Has Caught a British Spy. Neither the West nor Russia Intend To Scale Down Intelligence Activity"]

[Text] It has transpired from reliable sources that the Russian special services have marked the beginning of the current year by yet another successful large-scale operation, although this time around it was related to intelligence, not counterintelligence activity.

On 15 January, FCS officers detained a high-ranking staffer of a large organization in the Russian military-industrial sector on suspicion of spying. The name and post of this person have not been identified so far for the purpose of the investigation.

The Russian Main Military Prosecutor's Office has brought a criminal lawsuit in connection with the matter; on 25 January the suspect was indicted on Article 64(a) of the Russian Federation Criminal Code for high treason in the form of espionage. According to the source, the defendant has pleaded guilty on all counts. During the preliminary investigation, FCS officers managed to obtain evidence proving that the detainee was recruited by British special services. In order to perform his spy mission he was given specialized cryptographic equipment, instructions on methods of communicating with secret agents from the British Embassy in Moscow through "dead drops," and so forth. On instructions from the British agents he gathered and handed over to them secret military and economic information about the latest developments in the area of weapons models, their specifications and performance characteristics, the funding of defense and research and-development programs, and the prospects for the organization of military- technical cooperation between Russia and foreign countries.

The investigation continues.

Zhirinovskiy Denies Weapons Obtained Via Ames

LD0103151294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1448 GMT 1 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow March 1 TASS—Russian nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy denied allegations that the secret weapons with which he had threatened the West of late was obtained by Russia through Aldrich Ames, a high-ranking CIA official arrested on charges of spying for Russia.

"These can be parallel research with simply the same name, but this is a reseach of our scientists, it has nothing to do with Americans", Zhirinovskiy told TASS on tuesday adding that he had learned about the Ames family from newspapers.

Media reports said that the Zhirinovskiy-disclosed secret weapon was created by the U.S. "Gerardo International" company, and, according to its President Neil Gerardo, was obtained by Russians through Ames.

"We had and have nothing to do with the Ames husband and wife, and we are not connected with any secret services in general", Zhirinovskiy said.

Intelligence Official Stresses Cooperation With U.S.

LD0103214294 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Interview with Tatyana Samolis, press secretary of the director of the Foreign Intelligence Service, by correspondent Sergey Omelchenko; interview is interspersed with video footage of Ames and his wife being arrested and Yeltsin with Clinton walking along surrounded by a crowd of people—from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] The trial in the United States of the case of Ames who has been charged with spying for Russia was expected to start today. However we have not yet received any news about the start of this trial.

[Omelchenko] In my opinion, the passions raging around intelligence activities have a whiff of dirty tricks about them, because the intelligence service in all countries, at any time, is as it were an early warning system warning regarding conflicts, the various unpleasant things that menace the state. And in this case, in the Ames case, don't you think, Tatyana Viktorevna, that this is more a matter not of professional problems, but of political ambitions and political problems, even far-fetched ones?

[Samolis] If this problem is raised on this level of high politics, then it is not raised by intelligence officers, because in any country professionals understand one another. And in general I think that in today's civilized world, conducting intelligence activity against one another is absolutely no impediment to maintaining friendly and even ally-style relations.

[Omelchenko] All that fuss surrounding the Ames affair and the stirring up of the public makes one form the impression that here, on the one hand, the CIA is in trouble in general; on the other hand, perhaps some kind of influential forces want to suggest to Clinton that he should alter relations with Russia, perhaps to have some kind of pause in our relations.

[Samolis] I would not argue with you. In any case, the Russian intelligence service is interested in continuing cooperation with the U.S. intelligence service. It will strive for that.

[Omelchenko] In what fields?

[Samolis] We have many common problems in this far from simple and rather dangerous world. First and foremost, it is in such fields as the problems of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the fight against international crime, against drug trafficking, against terrorism, and the exchange of information on the development of the situation in crisis spots. That is enough for today. Tomorrow perhaps there will be some new problems in the solution of which we may need one another.

[Omelchenko] Tatyana Viktorevna, after the mutual expulsions of Morris and Lysenko, if there is a further escalation in such actions, how will the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service react?

[Samolis] First and foremost, we would not like this to happen, of course. We think that common sense should prevail, but if it becomes an issue like you have mentioned, then the measures will probably be mutual ones, but it will not be the intelligence service that will take them, but the country's highest political leadership.

Commentary Regrets Politicization of Ames Affair

LD0103160194 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1210 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Ames affair has taken an undesirable turn. As you may remember, the CIA officer Aldrich Ames was arrested in the United States last week on charges of spying, first for the former Soviet Union and then for Russia. When the official representative of the Russian external intelligence in Moscow, Aleksandr Lysenko, was declared persona non grata, Moscow took a retaliatory step against his American counterpart in Moscow, Mr. James Morris.

Many in Moscow keep wondering what the reason is for such a sharp response by the United States to the Ames case, although such incidents have been quite frequent in the world of intelligence gathering. Further to this, Mr. Ames's guilt is still to be proven in court and that will be no easy task. Also, Russia and the United States have never concluded an agreement to cease intelligence operations against each other. Moscow understands perfectly well that the United States' desire is to learn about what is going on in Russia, but Washington too must respond with understanding to Moscow's intention to know what trends in relations with Moscow prevail in United States political circles.

What is the real reason for the hue and cry about the Ames case? Observers believe that this inadequate response to events—that do constitute a psychological drama for the U.S. secret services, no denying that—has a political background. They are not ruling out that it may be linked with the success of Russian diplomats in their efforts to settle the Bosnian crisis.

On the other hand, it is quite possible that certain circles in the United States would prefer to make a pause in relations with Russia and to wait and see what turn the march of events in Russia will take in the near future. President Clinton seems to be under pressure from his political opponents, who have jumped at the opportunity to use the Ames affair in their own interests. However, the Russian side cannot help wonder why a problem that falls within the area of competence of United States and Russian security services has received a highly politicized interpretation. This kind of attitude disagrees with the principle of partnership between the Russian and United States intelligence services, which not only seek cooperation and wider contacts but already cooperate in such fields as the struggle against drug trafficking, terrorism, and organized crime. In any case, the Russian side would like that cooperation be continued. It hopes that if the United States is reserved enough, the Ames affair would remain what it should be—a minor episode in relations between our two countries.

'Firmness' Against U.S. 'Hysteria' Needed

PM0103135194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Mar 94 p 3

[Aleksandr Golts article: "Why the Hysteria in Washington?"]

[Text] A certain marshal of France would say to his batman in the morning from time to time: "Fetch my old kepi, I intend to stamp on it today in a fit of anger." That is what comes to mind when you look at the official hysteria that has unfolded in the United States over the arrest of the Ames couple, who have been charged with spying for Russia. They have been under surveillance for over 10 months. The President was informed of all the suspicions, which did not stop him visiting Moscow and agreeing on a "mature partnership" with Russia. And now suddenly the Ameses have been dragged into broad daylight, like the old marshal's kepi, so that Washington has something to stamp on in anger.

One can hardly say seriously that this entire tale of espionage, which has caused a major cold spell in relations between Moscow and Washington, was the reason for this cooling. In actual fact, people in the U.S. capital are bound to realize that Russia, even if the charges against the Ameses do accord with reality, did not go beyond what is permissible. After all, as far as one can judge from articles in the press, Ames informed the Russian special services about U.S. agents operating in Russia. To be honest, Russia's desire to find out which of its citizens is working for a foreign state is quite justified.

But what is the real reason then for the demarches, in which all the administration's top leaders have been involved? To tell the truth I do not think that people who link what is happening with the ratification of this year's U.S. intelligence budget are right. After all, the prestige of the CIA has not so much been strengthened as weakened. And, what is more, given the really serious uncertainty in the world it is hardly necessary to use scandalous arrests of foreign agents to persuade congressmen of the need to allocate money for the special services' activity.

Those who link the hysteria in Washington with Russia's unexpected and extremely successful Bosnian settlement initiative are closer to the truth. The initiative as such is not the issue, however. Since, if we are talking about the crux of the matter, Moscow's initiative has indeed eased the implementation of the Western approach to the settlement. It has enabled the Serbs to "keep face" and NATO members to avoid an utterly unprecedented operation that would be the prologue to a long and bloody conflict. Russia has found a solution acceptable to everyone. Moreover it risked its soldiers' lives in doing so.

So what has driven Washington berserk? In my view, Moscow's successful initiative in the Balkans confirmed once and for all the fundamental changes in Russian foreign policy. Changes for which U.S. strategic planning made no provision at all. After all, over the last few years Washington has already gotten accustomed to feeling that it is the only world leader, the only superpower. This power could dare to ignore world public opinion when missile and bombing raids were inflicted on Iraq. It can even put up with the obvious fiasco of Somalia. And its world lead does not seem to have been disputed at all. At least no alternatives were given.

But this time the United States found itself on the sidelines of the settlement process owing to the actions taken by Russia, which it had long since struck off the list of main participants in international politics. But no, in everyone's eyes Russia remained an important, perhaps the most important factor in world politics. A passive inward-looking factor, so to speak. Russia was primarily of interest to the rest of the world because of the dangers that will arise if disturbances or civil war break out in a country that not only has nuclear but also other destructive potential. And so, in order not to "cause trouble," the West, primarily the United States, was willing to provide some financial and economic aid for Russian reforms and mostly talk endlessly about the terms of this support. With the same end in view—in order not to elicit a pathological reaction from the Russian public—our country continued to be ritually called a great power and invited to take part in resolving various global problems, without being thought capable of really accomplishing anything.

People say that fashion reflects people's ideas. Thus, "Russian refugee" style is gaining a foothold in the world: shapeless pants, a vest, and a shawl worn on top of a sweater with the ends tied at the back. Like it or not, that is how we are seen. Yet suddenly it emerges that Russia, which had already been written off, is beginning not only to announce but also to implement an active foreign policy course. It is not enough that it is resolutely promoting reintegration within the CIS and trying to carry out peacekeeping functions in nearby foreign countries. The West could have somehow put up with that. But a country in crisis is being successful in an area where Western states have been impotently marking time for two years now. It emerges that, despite its own crisis and the occasionally obvious inconsistency in its policy, Russia still has considerable prestige, and quite possibly not just in the Balkans....

The question now is, as France's LE FIGARO wrote, how far the United States is prepared to agree to the expansion of Russian influence. At the moment Washington is displaying its irritation.

Someone has been very skillful and timely in bringing up the Ameses. After all, the incident is extremely useful for those circles that have no interest in a real partnership between the West and Russia. And these circles exist in virtually all countries. MAINICHI SHIMBUN has just reported that U.S.-Japanese staff exercises are still being conducted, based on the possibility of a Russian attack on Hokkaido. Now, when the sides are reassessing their own role and the role of partner, those people who feel uncomfortable in the present situation may quite easily see their chance. They could quite easily try to use the cold spell to once again dig up the "enemy image" that we are long since sick of.

Yet one cannot say that their plans are totally groundless. The train of events shows that the switch to new relations with the West has by no means become irreversible. The old fears and old ways rear their heads again at the slightest complication. And menacing speeches can already be heard in the U.S. Congress. A Russian diplomat has already been expelled like during those memorable times. And this at a time when the U.S. President has over the last few days clearly been backpedaling, reluctant to jeopardize the whole set of Russian-U.S. relations. However the conflict seems to have the potential to escalate on its own.

A great deal now depends on Russia. It must retain calm dignity. One can hardly talk seriously about its meeting the absolutely unacceptable demand for the unilateral cessation of intelligence activity in the United States. But it is also important not to succumb to provocation today. We are by and large being incited to make brusque statements. Firmness is what is needed here. It is necessary to show the United States and other Western states from the example

of recent crises that a partnership with Russia is indeed a vital necessity for everyone. And that the rules of conduct within this partnership are the same for everyone. That there are not junior partners who must know their place and not interfere in the adults' conversations and actions. Nor are there any older partners who have the right to put children in their place or even just vent their spleen on them.

FIS, CIA Want Cooperation

PM0203115194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 94 First Edition p 1

[Anatoliy Shapovalov "Commentary": "Russia-United States: Time To Call a Time-Out?"]

[Text] At first glance, the "case" of Mr. and Mrs. Ames, who allegedly worked first for the Soviet Union and then for Russia, is taking a sinister turn. Panic even has begun to loom: A rupture in American-Russian relations is said to be inevitable.

The development of events has indeed taken a dangerous turn. James Morris, counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow (he is a representative of the CIA, don't be surprised—Moscow and Washington have reached an accord whereby they don't keep secret who the chief representatives of their special services are) has been officially declared persona non grata.

But why actually has such a furor been created? Have Russia and the United States really reached an accord that the two sides stop intelligence activity? Nothing of the kind. Moreover, the calls to intensify such activity in relation to Russia and to give it priority status are growing in Congress. Nor does the Russian Federation Foreign Intelligence Service [FIS] hide the fact that it too is engaged in such work—not with the aim of undermining the United States (the political intelligence service is scarcely up to that) but out of a desire to learn what the trends are on the banks of the Potomac, who wants Russia to fall apart and who wants it to remain intact, and who is trying to play the Ukrainian or other cards. For its part, the United States takes an interest in what is being done in our country and which parties and forces are seeking power.

The Americans advance the argument that the Ames' presence in the CIA has undermined U.S. security. Excuse me, but, given that Aldrich was recruiting agents in Russia, whose security is actually at stake here?

However, once the "case" of the Ames couple had blown up it immediately began to retreat into the background. Something quite different began to predominate. Unhappy that Russia had taken the initiative in resolving the Bosnian crisis, some people began grumbling: Look, the Russian bear is awaking again. At the same time a broad hint was dropped: The United States is a country which has not just special commitments but also special rights in the world. And Russia meanwhile should not conduct intelligence activity in the States, it should not engage in intelligence at all. In general, as you can see, we have back-to-front logic here. True, you do also hear in the United States the voices of people like, for example, ex-CIA Director William Colby, who take a realistic and sensible line. But the problem is that they are immediately put down for allegedly acting unpatriotically.

Clearly, the position of those people in the United States ready to blame the Clinton administration for having recklessly and naively expanded relations with Russia is strengthening. Now the "case" of the Ames couple has become known it is necessary to correct the mistakes made, that is to say, call a time-out in relations with Russia. It is essential to take a closer look at what is happening over there.

Being gentlemen, Russian intelligence officers appreciate that the CIA (professional solidarity is no doubt in play here) is now experiencing a psychological trauma, being under strong pressure from the FBI, the legislative bodies, and, finally, the taxpayers (we pay our money in and it then ends up in the pockets of traitors). Preserving a sense of tact, CIA Director James Woolsey is seeking not to fuel the situation. But certain circles in the United States are very persistent and are inclined perhaps to revive elements characteristic of the period of confrontation and to shift purely professional questions (the questions of the special services) into the sphere of state relations.

The Russian FIS rejects any gloating whatsoever over the situation in which CIA staffers find themselves and is ready to engage in dialogue and discussion on these painful issues. It is no secret that there is a lot the Americans don't like about current practice, but their Russian counterparts have their own complaints too. It is well known, in particular, that the bugging of Russian Federation representatives has not stopped. V. Bakatin handed over important documents to the American side, but nothing has been received in return to date. The intensive recruiting of Russian citizens by the U.S. special services also disturbs Moscow.

In short, both the Russian FIS and the CIA favor cooperation, but cooperation with necessary consideration of national interests. They favor cooperation on an equal footing. This has to be a two-way street. Any other approach is tantamount to requiring the other side to surrender its position while allegedly on a level playing field.

Kozyrev Hails Agreement to Unblock Tuzla Airport

LD0103161794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1605 GMT 1 Mar 94

[by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow March 1 TASS—An agreement to unblock the Tuzla airport with participation of international observers and strict control over the delivery of humanitarian cargo is a new major step towards political settlement in Bosnia, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told correspondents here today upon the completion his negotiations with Bosnian Serb Leader Radovan Karadzic.

Karadzic came to Moscow on Monday night [28 February] on the Russian initiative for negotiations on Bosnian settlement.

The negotiations were very frank but difficult as the problem is complicated and the war has lasted for two years, said Kozyrev. In his opinion, the peace initiative of Russian President Boris Yeltsin has played an exclusively positive role in settlement around Sarajevo as "it created conditions for a crucial turn in regional developments".

Kozyrev plans to discuss with Boris Yeltsin the Russian holding of operation at the Tuzla airport. He said the agreement to the effect reached with the Serb side opens way to more steps for regional settlement. Kozyrev hopes other states will participate in negotiations with other parties to the conflict in order to reach accord and compromises.

In his turn, Karadzic praised Yeltsin's initiative as a good sign for other sides to follow the path of peaceful settlement. He said Bosnian Serbs agree to open the Tuzla airport in the immediate future for the delivery of humanitarian cargo. They also want Russian observers to control non-military uses of the airport, which, in the words of Karadzic, correspond to wishes of representatives of the U.N. secretary-general and the European Union in former Yugoslavia.

A statement for the press issued by the sides notes that the arrival of Russian peace-makers in the area of Sarajevo and precise and objective fulfilment of their duty as part of the U.N. Protection Force in former Yugoslavia are a weighty and stabilizing contribution that creates prerequisites for normalization in Sarajevo and around it.

The Bosnian Serb leader welcomed the Russian president's initiative to hold a summit in Moscow in order to reach the soonest peace agreement, settle crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina and lift sanctions against former Yugoslavia.

When discussing the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Russian side stressed the need for maximum restraint and full cooperation with the U.N., says the statement.

Karadzic Says U.S. Must Not Monopolize Peace Process

LD0203122994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1158 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow March 2 ITAR-TASS—Bosnian Serb Leader Radovan Karadzic told a news conference here today that the United Nations should play a more prominent role in the Bosnian peace process and objected to the U.S. attempts to monopolize the process. "I do not think that one country should monopolize" this process and sideline all others, Karadzic said.

Karadzic sounded apprehensive about the confederation pact between Bosnia's Croats and Moslems agreed in Washington, and said he feared it could be used against Serbs in the former yugoslav republic. "We can welcome this agreement only if it is not aimed against Serbs, only if it lead us to peace and not to war".

Welcomes Yeltsin Summit Initiative

LD0103163994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1515 GMT 1 Mar 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] A spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry has told Interfax, the leader of Bosnian Serbs Radovan Karadzic who Tuesday met in Moscow with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, has welcomed the initiative by Russian President Boris Yeltsin on holding in Moscow a summit meeting (4+1—Interfax) to reach as early as possible an understanding on peace, comprehensive settlement of the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the lifting of sanctions from the new Yugoslavia.

Answering the wish by the Russian president, Karadzic said that during the preparation for the meeting Bosnian Serbs will show a maximum of contructiveness, with due account of the quality criteria for the territorial delineation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Karadzic voiced gratitude for the decisive actions of the Russian president for the political settlement of the crisis around Sarajevo.

Kozyrev and Karadzic have said that arrival of a Russian peace- keeping contingent in Sarajevo, the strict performance of its duty as part of the UN Protection Force are a weighty and stabilizing contribution creating prerequisites for further progress in normalising the situation in the city and around it.

Karadzic said that the Bosnian Serbs agree to the opening of an airport in the city of Tuzla that will welcome deliveries of humanitarian cargoes. Bosnian Serbs proceed from the fact that Russian observers will take an active part in the control over the non-military use of the airport. This goes in line with the desire of the envoy of the UN Secretary General on the former Yugoslavia.

For its part, the Russian side said about preparedness to send its observers to Tuzla. [sentence as received]

During the discussion of the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Russian side pointed to the need to show the maximal restraint and cooperation with the UN Protection Force. This was welcomed by Karadzic and other leaders of the Bosnian Serbs.

"NATO ACTION NO ACCIDENT," RUSSIAN DEFENSE OFFICIAL SAYS

The shooting down of four, presumably Serbian, planes by NATO air force was "no accident," a senior official in the Russian Defense Ministry told Interfax.

He said that "the Americans who have long since sided with the Muslims always wanted to put pressure to bear on Bosnian Serbs. The UN 'no-flight zone' resolution was passed more than a year ago but never applied until now even though it had been repeatedly violated by Bosnian Serbs, Muslims and Croatians."

The official said that the NATO action in which USAF jets were involved was directed less against Bosnian Serbs than against Russia which had scored significant successes "along the Yugoslav line." He believed that "the noise over the Ames' case was consistent with the action in Bosnia. Americans do whatever they want and behave as if they won the cold war."

On the other hand, he did not want to make the U.S. more guilty than it was. "There was no evil design in letting the planes drop their bombs before shooting them down. In Bosnia-Herzegovina where the positions of the warring parties tend to 'intertwine' it takes just minutes from the take off to the start of bombing," he said.

Meets State Duma Speaker

LD0103192694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1857 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] The speaker of the Russian State Duma Ivan Rybkin had a meeting in Moscow on Tuesday [1 March] evening with the leader of Bosnian Serbs Radovan Karadzic visiting Moscow now for 1 hour and 15 minutes instead of 20 minutes scheduled beforehand. The meeting behind closed doors was attended by the chairman of the State Duma's committee for international affairs Vladimir Lukin.

As INTERFAX was told at the press service of the State Duma, during the meeting Rybkin "confirmed the position of the chamber that without Russia's involvement the settlement in former Yugoslavia is impossible".

Karadzic told journalists that he expects the arrival of a Russian parliamentary delegation. He also informed about his request to send an additional Russian peacekeeping contingent to the Bosnian city of Tuzla.

Rybkin Criticizes NATO for Downing Bosnia Planes

LD0103222994 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2134 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow, March 1 (TANJUG)—Speaker of the Russian Parliament Lower House Ivan Rybkin criticized Tuesday the action of NATO planes over Bosnia-Herzegovina and set out that 'NATO cannot be an instrument of the United Nations.'

Rybkin told a press conference that the actions of the international community could not be undertaken by-passing Russia. In this, he added, I agree with President Boris Yeltsin.

NATO has said Monday that its F-16 U.S. planes downed early on Monday four Galeb type aircraft near Banja Luka, a city in northwestern Bosnia-Herzegovina, which were found in violation of the no-fly zone over Bosnia. The identity of the downed planes has not been established, but the world media hurried to claim they belonged to the Bosnian Serbs.

The authorities of the Bosnian Serbs denied these claims, while Maj. Obaydul, who heads the UNPROFOR monitor mission at the Banja Luka airport, the only airport the Bosnian Serb army has, said Tuesday his team already sent to the main headquarters three reports that there were no take-offs nor landings at the airport, not only at the time the planes were downed but also over the past few days in general.

The NATO action was criticized Tuesday in a statement to the INTERFAX news agency also by a ranking Russian Defense Ministry official. He assessed that this action was not only directed at the Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina but even more so against Russia, and all this because it has of late achieved much success in pacifying the conflict in the former Yugoslavia.

'The Americans have no wish to talk and behave as if the cold war has ended with their victory,' an unnamed Russian official told the agency.

Newsmen Briefed on Russian Moves in Bosnia

PM0103143194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Mar 94 pp 1, 3

[Report by Colonel Aleksandr Oliynik and Major Sergey Sidorov: "Russia Takes Active Role in Settling Balkan Crisis. Press Conference at Russian Defense Ministry"]

[Text] Russia's sensational political initiative in the Balkans and the role that our Airborne Troops in the UN peacekeeping forces played therein were discussed at a press conference for Russian and foreign correspondents given 26 February by Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the Russian Armed Forces General Staff, and Colonel General Yevgeniy Podkolzin, commander of the Airborne Troops.

From the moment that NATO presented the warring parties in Bosnia-Herzegovina with an ultimatum, the Russian leadership has taken a firm and unequivocal stance, Col. Gen. Mikhail Kolesnikov told journalists, namely that a solution to the Bosnian problem must be sought by peaceful, political means. That is why, he went on to say, not only would the intended aerial bombing of Serb positions not speed up the peace settlement process but it might on the contrary stiffen the sides' positions and lead to a fresh escalation of the war in the Balkans.

The chief of the General Staff stressed that, by threatening to carry out bombing raids on targets around Sarajevo, the NATO command has thus put itself in an ambiguous position. It has been publicly stated that the use of force should be the instrument that will enable the situation around Sarajevo to be normalized. In actual fact Western diplomats acknowledge that bombing would be regarded in the North Atlantic Alliance as the collapse of its strong-arm policy. That is why the alliance greeted with relief the news that, owing to the efforts of the Russian president and Russian diplomats, it had proved possible to persuade the Bosnian Serbs to withdraw their heavy arms from a 20-km zone around Sarajevo, while our "blue helmets" in the UN peacekeeping forces acted as guarantors of this plan's implementation.

The arrival of the Russian soldiers is a key element in the implementation of Russia's plan for a political settlement of the crisis in Bosnia, Col. Gen. Kolesnikov noted. No matter what people in the West are now saying about the fear that the NATO ultimatum has supposedly inspired in the Serbs, he said, trust played a crucial role in the Serbs accepting our proposals. "The trust which they have in Russia and its peacekeeping forces."

The chief of the Armed Forces General Staff told journalists that, in response to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali's proposals, the Russian president asked the Federation Council to agree to allocate an additional troop contingent of 300 men to participate in the UN forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The upper chamber of parliament took a positive view of this proposal 25 February. What is more, Col. Gen. Kolesnikov pointed out, the Federation Council instructed the country's government on the Russian Defense Ministry's submission to urgently resolve the question of a pay raise for the personnel of the Russian UN contingent in Yugoslavia. The Russian Defense Ministry in conjunction with the Russian Foreign Ministry has also been tasked with immediately formulating a system of social guarantees for the personnel of the "blue berets" involved in peacekeeping operations on Yugoslav territory.

Col. Gen. Kolesnikov said in conclusion that Russia is starting to play a more active, autonomous role in settling the crisis in the Balkans, bolstering its diplomatic efforts by making a specific military and peacekeeping contribution. The statements, initiatives, and actions by the Russian political and military leadership and diplomats have once again proved that it is not strong-arm but political means of settling the Yugoslav conflict that are inexhaustible. And we will try to stick to them in the future.

Col. Gen. Yevgeniy Podkolzin, commander of the Airborne Troops, who returned from Belgrade 24 February as part of a government delegation, told journalists how Russia's proposed plan for settling the Bosnian crisis is being implemented. A key element in this plan was for Russian "blue helmets" to come to Sarajevo within a limited period. Despite the mountainous locality and the sudden snowfall, Col. Gen. Podkolzin said, a convoy of combat hardware with 400 Russian Airborne Troops led by Colonel Viktor Vorobyev arrived in Bosnia precisely on schedule. The local population—not only the Serbs, but also the Croats and Muslims—gave our Airborne Troops a cordial, enthusiastic reception like the frontline soldiers in victorious 1945.

At present, journalists were told by the commander of the Airborne Troops, our "blue helmets" are performing a peacekeeping mission in the Bosnian capital's so-called buffer zone between the opposing sides—the Serbs and Muslims—they occupy 16 km of the front. They have also taken Sarajevo Airport under guard along with the French "blue helmets."

With regard to the plan for our Airborne Troops' future stay in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Col. Gen. Podkolzin pointed out that they form the backbone of the UN 2d Russian battalion, which will be stationed in the Sarajevo region. As for the additional contingent of 300 men, whose posting to Bosnia-Herzegovina has been approved by the Federation Council, it will be sent in mid-March. Thus, the total number of Russian "blue helmets" on Yugoslav territory will shortly reach 1,500 officers, warrant officers, and contract troops, which, according to the commander of the Airborne Troops, will also help boost Russia's peacekeeping efforts in the Balkans.

In response to your KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent's question regarding guarantees of our soldiers' safety in Bosnia, where the 100,000-strong Muslim Army includes around 10,000 mojahedin who fought in Afghanistan, the commander of the Airborne Troops said that this was the main topic of conversation during his meeting with British General Rose, commander of the UN forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina, who gave assurances that all steps are currently being taken to ensure the safety of the "blue helmet" contingent, including the Russians.

Other questions from journalists were also answered during the press conference.

Adamishin on Bosnia Initiative, Situation

PM0203094594 Lisbon EXPRESSO in Portuguese 26 Feb 94 pp 1, 17

[Interview with First Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Adamishin by Luisa Meireles by telephone; date not given]

[Text] First Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Adamishin is regarded as the "brains" behind the current Russian initiative in Bosnia. Responsible for the main guidelines of foreign policy, he spoke to EXPRESSO by telephone.

[Meireles] Following a period of apparent self-effacement with respect to the Balkans, Russia has taken up active involvement. Why?

[Adamishin] Russia has not begun to act just now. We have been seeking for months a political agreement for Bosnia and for other conflict areas in the former Yugoslavia. At the last UN session we proposed the demilitarization of Sarajevo, and Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev suggested 24 January a ministerial meeting with the Security Council members in order to examine the city's problems, demilitarization, and placement under UN administration. The NATO ultimatum prevented the completion of the process. The political and diplomatic actions were the culmination of many months of efforts by Russian diplomacy.

[Meireles] But it was the credible threat of the use of force which produced the first positive results....

[Adamishin] I would say that it was the nonuse of force which made possible this result. I am not certain that the Serbs would have withdrawn their weapons if Russia had not asked them to do so in accordance with the UN secretary general's plan, without our resorting to ultimatums or threats. The important thing is the results, not the

laurels, but if anybody says that the decisive role was played by NATO, I disagree, and if NATO had shelled the Serb positions, I do not know what the consequences would have been.

[Meireles] Did the West try to sideline Russia in resolving the conflict?

[Adamishin] We did not like this ultimatum. In the first place, because it is not for NATO to deliver ultimatums and threaten the use of force in international relations, which is exclusively the Security Council's responsibility. Second, we agree with the West on the demilitarization of Sarajevo and its administration by the United Nations, and the overall political agreement, but the method chosen by the West would place Russia outside the decision-making framework, and here we disagree. Third, we believe that it prevented—or at least did not facilitate—the continuation of the negotiations which were already taking place in Sarajevo between Serbs and Muslims and which were suspended by the latter in anticipation of an intervention. The Muslims are the greatest obstacle to an agreement right now because they still hope to achieve on the battlefield what they could secure at the negotiating table, and when they learned that somebody was prepared to wage war for them, they lost interest in the talks.

[Meireles] When you said that Russia had carried out its task and that it is now for the West to perform its own, were you referring to the exertion of pressure on the Muslims?

[Adamishin] What I mean is that we used a powerful argument—our influence on the Serbs. Nobody else would have it. It stems from our balanced policy with respect to the crisis, not from our belonging to the same ethnic and religious group. We do not seek to vindicate the Serbs, but we do not regard them as the sole culprits. It is known that the United States or some other countries have greater prospects of influencing the Muslims and making them see that it is time to sit down at the negotiating table and achieve peace by accepting the plan for a political agreement which was virtually approved by the three sides and was withdrawn from the negotiating table.

[Meireles] In the talks with the United States, did Moscow inform it of that viewpoint?

[Adamishin] We must all work together to influence the three sides, using everybody's assets. The Americans told us not to pressure the Muslims yet deemed themselves to be in a position to tell us to pressure the Serbs. They did not wish to impose conditions on the Muslims for an agreement—only on the Serbs. This is not a fair stance.

[Meireles] In Moscow, all the political forces have supported the initiative in Bosnia. Does the Slav-Orthodox alliance remain valid?

[Adamishin] Our historical ties with the Serbs are one of the factors, but it is very dangerous to see the conflict in ethnic and religious terms: If the Slav countries supported the Serbs, the Islamic countries would have to support the Muslims, and the Catholics would have to support the Croats. It is not correct to say that only the Serbs are to blame, because it is untrue and politically incorrect.

[Meireles] Do you believe that the West has made that mistake?

[Adamishin] That is not what I mean. It is not possible to be unaware that Islamic countries are intervening for religious reasons. The important thing is to end the conflict, but an external act of force does not facilitate an agreement. We do not reject the possibility of its being necessary to use force—such as, for instance, the UN forces having the right to defend themselves in the event of an attack—but these are very specific and limited cases.

[Meireles] Could the model applied in Sarajevo be used in other Bosnian cities?

[Adamishin] Another ultimatum? Let them try it, and maybe they will reach the conclusion that it does not work! If one of the sides believes that it is possible the other will be attacked, there ceases to be a need to negotiate.

[Meireles] What are Russia's means for resolving the conflict?

[Adamishin] In the first place, we have political influence; second, we are prepared to work with all the Western countries; third, we have our troops there. They are under UN command, integrated into the peacekeeping forces, and this participation gives us greater ability to influence decisions.

[Meireles] Are you in favor of U.S. troops' participation in the UN Protection Force?

[Adamishin] Why not? We are inviting them!

[Meireles] Have you asked President Clinton?

[Adamishin] President Clinton has always said that he does not wish to send U.S. troops to Bosnia. It is not for us to tell him to send them. It is the United Nations which should say which troops it needs in Bosnia. When Butrus-Ghali said that he needed more forces in Sarajevo, we responded to his request.

[Meireles] If the ultimatum were carried out, could a grave conflict develop between East and West?

[Adamishin] That is a hypothetical question. Let us keep our fingers crossed and be thankful that this has not happened, and let us all be more sensible in the future in order to avert that possibility.

Kozyrev, Israel's Peres Discuss Hebron Situation

LD0103162694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1412 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres Tuesday [1 March] had a telephone talk with his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev and informed him of the measures taken by Tel Aviv for strengthening the security of the Palestinians and the order on the occupied territories following the tragedy in Hebron, Interfax was told by the spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry Grigoriy Karasin.

He said that in response to the earlier request by the Russian Minister, Peres voiced consent to discuss the proposals by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat about the international presence to help solve the problem.

It was said that the joint search for ways to overcome the current crisis would be continued. In line with it, the special envoy of the Russian President, First Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov will leave for Israel after the talks with the Palestinian leadership in Tunisia.

The explosion on Sunday in a Catholic Church in the suburbs of Beirut indicates that the extremist forces in the region do not give up attempts to frustrate the national reconciliation in Lebanon and block the Middle East peace process, Grigoriy Karasin has told Interfax.

He said that following the criminal act in Hebron, where an Israeli fanatic shot at believers at a mosque, another tragedy came. As a result of an explosion during the Sunday mass, dozens of civilian Lebanese were killed or wounded.

Russia expresses deep condolences to the families of the victims, said Karasin.

He said that the new tide of violence in the Middle East must be stopped and the region and its future must be protected against the encroachments of extremists.

Comments on Efforts to Achieve Peace

LD0103221294 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2015 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev by unidentified interviewer; place and date not given; from the "Middle East Drama" program—recorded]

[Text] [Interviewer] Andrey Vladimirovich, what's your assessment of the tragic event that occurred in Hebron?

[Kozyrev] It is, in general, quite a typical situation. In many areas of conflict, we encounter provocations—either the actions of people who cannot cope with their hatred, or simply madmen, etc. In other words, the situation is, in general, familiar enough from other areas. A person fires and kills dozens of people. That immediately highlights a problem. The main problem is the safety of the population in the occupied territories and, of course, potentially, in those territories that are now, by agreement, to be handed over to the Palestinian side. Safety has to be ensured there too, and, of course, it is a very sensitive moment when, on the one hand, peace is already attainable, but, on the other, forces are at work—perhaps it's an individual in the present case, but behind him, objectively, stand forces, anyway—that wish to frustrate the peace. That is the essence of the tragedy.

What conclusion can be drawn from this? Some may conclude that nothing will come of it. So let us fight, kill, and return to what is essentially a war in these territories. The second conclusion, which we draw, is that it is necessary to help the sides, to help them more actively. That is what, in our view, this occurrence has highlighted—apart from the human tragedy.

So, acting on the president's instructions, I immediately made contact with 'Arafat and with Shim'on Peres this morning. He and I had a further talk later. The Israelis assured us that they would be adopting their own measures to ensure security. In fact, Peres told me today that the government has adopted a whole package of measures—five or six of them—including the disarming of the most dangerous elements who are there among the Israelis themselves. That is, I think, a strong and, to be honest, a bold step on the part of the Israeli Government, and they had voiced their indignation, and so on and so forth. In other words, something is being done.

We also discussed the possibility of further measures of that type. 'Arafat asked me to go back to the idea of international participation, international assistance. Indeed, our experience in other areas too also shows that, generally speaking, either Russian or UN observers provide assistance, if only psychological. In other words, the sides see that someone is helping, that they are not cast to the mercy of fate.

There is a very high level of suspicion on both sides, and the presence of international representatives does somehow give them a feeling of—how should I put it?—neutrality or greater confidence. I asked the Israeli Government to weigh up the possibility of such an international presence. At first, the reaction was not very, let us say, it was without enthusiasm. Why? Because they don't want a UN presence. We then suggested that some thought could be given to the idea that they did not need to be UN observers. Maybe it would, in the end, be necessary to look for some other uniforms.

Shim'on Peres, Israel's foreign minister, told me on the telephone today that they are really prepared to discuss different options. They are still somewhat wary of the United Nations but he did not rule out other options. So we have agreed that Igor Sergeyevich Ivanov, the special envoy of the president and the first deputy foreign minister, who is a very experienced diplomat—he has today flown to Tunisia to have a meeting with 'Arafat and the PLO leaders and to discuss with them ways out of this situation and how Russia can help—we are ready to consider some material, and not merely political forms of assistance to the Palestinians, so that they might start feeling more confident, but immediately after this, in accordance with the understanding I have just reached, he will fly to Israel where he is to have a meeting witl. Israeli leaders in order to discuss different solutions with them as well.

Thus, the important thing is to provide for both sides a maximum political, and if necessary, material assistance, if you like, so that they can not only rescue the peace process but could also move onwards after this shock, this tragedy. This is because we want peace to prevail in the Middle East, and we cannot allow a bandit, or even a group of bandits, to disrupt this process. However, it is one thing to reach an agreement in principle and to start implementing

it—talks on the implementation of the agreement are under way—but then immediately we are confronted with reality. And here other forces emerge, which try to disrupt this process, if you see what I mean. And it turns out that the whole thing requires much greater efforts that we probably thought at the beginning. Therefore, we have rushed to fill this breach, in order to save this peace process once again and even to impart a new impetus to it.

I think it will take our special envoy several days to establish various other contacts. I spoke to U.S. Secretary of State Christopher about this yesterday. Russia and the United States are the cosponsors of the peace process in the Middle East, and we are not saying no to cooperation in this sphere, but it is clear that without an active Russian participation—both 'Arafat and the Israeli leaders have asked for that—this process cannot be saved. But we are not saying that this is something different from the efforts of everyone else. On the contrary, we think that everyone should be working to achieve the same goal.

Diplomat Gives Yeltsin Message to 'Arafat

LD0203092094 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] The Russian president's special representative Igor Ivanov has had a meeting in Tunis with the Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat. He handed him a personal message from Boris Yeltsin. The message expresses Russia's firm intention to further the achievement of peace in the Middle East. After the talks were concluded, the Russian diplomat set off for Israel. Igor Ivanov spoke of Russia's support for the Palestinian proposal to ensure an international presence in the territories occupied by Israel.

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on West Bank

LD0203100094 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0900 GMT 2 Mar 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Russian Foreign Ministry today issued a statement on the persisting tensions in the occupied territories of Palestine. This alarming situation calls for active steps on the part of Russia. The statement says Russia believes it necessary for the UN Security Council to adopt a resolution with a view to ensure security in that region of the world. The idea of international protection for civilians merits the most serious consideration; this protection could be carried out by independent observers on the West bank of the river Jordan and in the Gaza strip.

A new international impetus is needed for the cause of reconciliation between the Arabs and the Israelis to proceed further. Russia proposes that a second plenary meeting of the Madrid conference on the Middle East at the foreign minister level should be arranged. Moscow also favors the continuation of bilateral talks at any venue convenient for those taking part.

This was a statement from the foreign ministry of the Russian Federation.

Moscow Urges 'New International Impulse' in Mideast

LD0203123594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1055 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Russia is in favor of adoption of an UN Security Council resolution to provide for security on the Arab territories occupied by Israel, says a statement of Russian Foreign Ministry's spokesman handed over to INTERFAX Wednesday.

The problematic situation on the occupied Palestinian territories, the result of the barbaric crime of an Israeli extremist in Hebron, encourages Russia to make further active moves in order to overcome the present crisis phase in the peace process in the Middle East—which appear under threat, the statement says.

The document also points out that Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev maintains permanent contact with the Palestinian and Israeli leadership to look for optimal forms of Russian assistance for the sake of returning to a peaceful settlement. Russia's first deputy Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov was sent to the Middle East on the private instruction of the Russian president to meet with the PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli leadership.

Moscow believes that the idea of sending international supervisors to the West Bank of the Jordan River and Gaza Strip "deserves serious attention." "This would facilitate bringing about Palestinian self-management there," says the statement.

The new "obstacle" in the Middle Eastern talks demonstrates that there is a need for "a new international impulse" to reconcile the Arabs and Israelis. Another plenary meeting of the Madrid conference on the Middle East, on the level of Foreign Ministers, could become such an impetus, believes Moscow.

Speaking about the nearest prospects, the statement says that Russia advocates continuation of bilateral negotiations to be conducted in places convenient for their participants.

Commentary on Need for Continuing Arab-Israeli Talks

LD0103193994 Moscow Radio Moscow in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Commentary by commentator Aleksandr Timoshkin entitled The Arab-Israeli Talks Should Continue; read by announcer]

[Text] The Middle East peace conference co-sponsors, Russia and the United States, think it indispensable to continue these talks. Moscow has sent the deputy foreign minister, Igor Ivanov, on a special mission to the Middle East. The aim of of the visit, during which Ivanov will meet President Yasir 'Arafat, is to give the peace process in the region a fresh impetus. Russia continues to stimulate mediation efforts aimed at ensuring the success of the Arab-Israeli direct talks. Moscow has agreed to Washington's proposal of sending out an invitation to the negotiating parties to resume the talks in the U.S. capital.

After meeting the Palestinian president in Tunis, Ivanov will go to Israel to hold talks with officials there. In the light of these talks, Moscow will decide its subsequent steps in its Middle East foreign policy.

This is what Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev announced at a news conference yesterday. He had a phone conversation with his Israeli counterpart, Shimon Peres, who informed Kozyrev of Israel's agreement to allow foreign civilian observers to visit the Palestinian occupied territories. In the meantime the Israeli Government is taking some measures to reduce the gravity of the negative impact of the Hebron massacre on the talks process. For example, the release has started today of hundreds of Palestinians from prisons, and the policy of limiting contacts between Jewish settlers and the Palestinians to avoid new bloody clashes continues.

Representatives of the PLO in the occupied territories think that the release of a few hundred Palestinian prisoners is not enough, because the heart of the matter is the release of all the 10,000 prisoners.

On its part, the United States was busy coordinating with the Palestinians and Israelis on the Security Council draft resolution, the main aim of which is to put an end to the bloody acts of violence exchanged in the Palestinian occupied territories.

The U.S. permanent representative at the UN said that the agreement on the text of the document [UN Security Council resolution] is being finalized word by word to avoid a different interpretation in the future.

The Security Council will continue discussing the consequences of the Hebron massacre today. Representatives of more than 30 UN member states have asked to address the session. Therefore, it is possible that the Security Council's meetings could last several days.

The current circumstances indicate that the international community is concerned that the Middle East peace process should continue until a just and lasting peace has been established in the region, and until a secure and peaceful situation has developed for all the peoples and states of the region.

Obsessed extremist terrorists from both sides must never be allowed to hinder or stop the progress of the negotiating process, the final aim if which is to reconcile between Israelis and Arabs on a basis acceptable equally to them and to the international community.

Israel's 'Only Choice' Is To Expedite Palestinian Autonomy

PM0103172194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Mar 94 First Edition p 3

[Leonid Mlechin article: "In the Near East One Madman May Destroy What the Leaders of Several States Have Built With Difficulty"]

[Excerpts] The massacre in the mosque which one madman carried out will cost the Jewish state dear. Terrorist reprisals are simply the most obvious of troubles which may occur.

The positions of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and his entourage, which took the risk of recognizing Israel's right to exist despite being cursed by many Palestinians who are sure that the only way to resolve all their problems is to cast the Jews into the sea, have been weakened.

The Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories which began after the bloodshed in the mosque on Friday is terrifying the Israelis. Neither negotiations with the Palestinian Arabs nor peace with them—only force of arms—seems to be a guarantee of their security. In looking for protection, the Israelis are turning to right-wing parties, opponents of the negotiations with 'Arafat and of the return of the occupied territories to the Arabs. Yitzhaq Rabin's government may lose its support.

Israelis are full of doubt about peace negotiations with the Arabs because it is the Jews who must make all the real concessions (including returning the territories). The Arabs, on the other hand, are being asked for something metaphysical—to recognize Israel and conclude peace with it. But a treaty is not a docket for a purchase. It can be dissolved, then it is no longer possible to return land. To the Israelis this exchange—taking into account the Arabs' hatred toward the Jewish state—seems to be unequal and unreliable. But the Israelis have no choice. [passage omitted]

The only correct response by Israel to the massacre in the mosque is to accelerate talks with the PLO and grant the Palestinian Arabs autonomy as soon as possible. Otherwise, Israel will have an uncertain and lonely future which is dependent on a narrowing circle of friends.

Yeltsin Welcomes Uzbek President

LD0203090994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0801 GMT 2 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Anna Melnikova and Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 2 Mar—Boris Yeltsin has officially welcomed Islam Karimov in St. George's Hall in the Grand Kremlin Palace. The Uzbekistan president arrived this morning in Moscow to strengthen cooperation and integration between the two countries.

The anthems of the two countries were played at the official welcoming ceremony. Having exchanged brief welcoming speeches, Boris Yeltsin and Islam Karimov proceeded to the green drawing room where they are to talk tete-a-tete.

Presidents Sign Accord

LD0203113994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1039 GMT 2 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow March 2 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Uzbekistan's Islam Karimov have signed "the declaration about the development and deepening of comprehensive cooperation between Russia and Uzbekistan".

The declaration signed in the Kremlin today says that the Russian Federation and the Republic of Uzbekistan confirm the determination to consistently develop and deepen comprehensive cooperation in the interests of the peoples of both states and pursue the policy of economic reforms and democratic transformations". [no opening quotation marks as received]

The two states pledge in the declaration to guarantee the rights of national minorities residing in Russia and Uzbekistan.

Russia and Uzbekistan seek to "strengthen coordination of their foreign political activity in consolidating peace and security, while focusing on interaction in settling regional conflicts and other disputes which infringe the interests of both states".

Russia and Uzbekistan intend to set up a mechanism of consultations in the interests of ensuring the safety of the external borders of the Commonwealth member states".

Yeltsin and Karimov also signed an agreement on military cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Uzbekistan to confirm the significance of the collective security agreement signed in Tashkent on May 15, 1992. The two countries noted that they would continue "efforts to deepen and cooperation in the military field and develop the adequate legal framework for the purpose".

Russians, Ukrainians Cooperate on Launch

LD0203123694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1055 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] A Russian Space Force's Tsiklon-3 booster, made in the Yuzhmash factory, Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine, launched an unmanned orbiter station at 6:25 Moscow time [0325 GMT] on March 2. The orbiter will observe the sun's activity as part of the joint Russian-Ukrainian Koronas-I project.

The project leader, member of the Russian Academy of Sciences Viktor Orayevskiy (director of the Institute of Earth Magnetism, Ionosphere and Radio Wave Propagation, in Troitsk, Moscow Region), emphasized that this was "the first cooperation project between the Russian and Ukrainian Academies of Sciences after the collapse of the USSR."

The orbiter will hopefully provide new insights into the Earth-sun interaction, the sun corona and the impact the sun activity makes on the Earth ionosphere.

Earlier space stations of this kind were named Interkosmos and carried equipment supplied by the East European countries.

The station is expected to stay at least three years in service.

Grachev Leaves Norway for Moscow

LD0103221594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1614 GMT 1 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Pshenichnikov]

[Text] Oslo, 1 Mar—Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, who has been in Norway on a working visit, today visited Haakonsvern naval base, located near the town of Bergen, in the west of the country.

The Russian guest was given an opportunity to go aboard one of the Norwegian Navy's submarines. During the visit to Haakonsvern, the Russian minister was accompanied by head of Norway's war department, Joergen Kosmo.

Today the working visit was completed. Pavel Grachev and the Defense Ministry delegation accompanying him left Bergen for Moscow.

Shokhin Gives Statement After G-7 Meeting

PM0103164994 Moscow TRUD in Russian 1 Mar 94 Night Edition p 5

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kulbitskiy and TRUD correspondent Rudolf Kolchanov: "Aid to Russia Will Be Continued"]

[Text] Bonn, 28 Feb—The finance ministers and leaders of central banks of the seven leading Western countries held a routine meeting in the German city of Kronberg last Saturday [26 February]. The participants analyzed the situation in the world economy, noting the positive changes in it, and discussed problems of stabilizing the Japanese yen and proposals for lowering the bank credit rate in the FRG.

But great attention was devoted to questions connected with giving financial aid to Russia. A. Shokhin, Russian minister of the economy; S. Dubinin, leader of the Ministry of Finance; and V. Gerashchenko, chairman of the Central Bank, were invited to the meeting in Kronberg.

Assessing the results of the meeting, at which the Western participants linked economic aid to the achievement of financial stability in Russia and to progress in implementing reforms, Shokhin declared, in particular: "The majority of the Western ministers said that the reforms in Russia must be carried out with due regard for the need to create a system of social protection for the population. Of course, no one in the West is prepared to allocate money to us for the unemployed and pensioners. But the West is showing readiness to elaborate a joint scheme of cooperation in the sphere of social protection."

"It seems to me," Shokhin went on to point out, "that we succeeded in convincing the finance ministers and the banks' leaders of 'the seven' that it is necessary not only to promote the Russian reforms but also to seek new mechanisms of more intensive financial support also for the CIS countries, which on this basis will be able to build equitable relations with Russia more successfully. We recommended that the finance ministers 'hurry up,' if I may use

these words, and grant the first credit lines to the CIS countries (Russia has already received $1.5 billion). This would strengthen the CIS countries' financial position and help them to pay off their debts to Russia."

Dubinin voiced confidence that "it will now be possible to attract to Russia the financial resources of 'the seven' in the form of not just state but also private investments."

Commentary Views DPRK Nuclear Inspection Issue

SK0203120094 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1000 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] On 1 March International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] experts are to begin the inspection of seven nuclear facilities in the DPRK.

Kondratiyev, commentator of this broadcasting network, said that the international community will undoubtedly welcome this.

He said: The people have waited for this news for a year. Talks among IAEA, Washington, and Pyongyang representatives on international inspection of nuclear facilities in North Korea necessitated such a delay.

North Korea withdrew from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] in March 1993 and refused IAEA inspection of its nuclear facilities. The negative results of such a decision by North Korea should not be emphasized as many of them are being removed with the beginning of the inspection.

The affirmative results of Pyongyang's agreement to inspections are very clear. First, Washington and Seoul will suspend the Team Spirit joint military exercise, which was held every year. Second, talks for forming normal relations between the United States and North Korea will continue. A third round of talks will likely be held on 21 March.

What is the most important result is the resumption of North- South talks, because no one but the Korean people themselves can solve the problems on the Korean peninsula, including the denuclearization issue.

The North and the South of Korea had already reached an agreement on denuclearization of the Korean peninsula in 1991. The only thing remaining is the implementation of this plan. The resumption of working-level talks between the North and the South is scheduled on 3 March.

We cannot (?assess) at this moment the result of IAEA inspections of DPRK nuclear facilities. The beginning of the inspection, however, will exercise good influence on the Korean peninsula and on the overall political situation in this area.

Political Issues

Investigation Into Oct Unrest Continues

LD0203152194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1416 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow March 2 TASS—The investigation of the criminal case on mass riots in Moscow on October 3-4 continues, says a report sent by the Russian prosecutor-general's office to ITAR-TASS on Wednesday.

The report says that the prosecutor-general's office has not investigated up to the end "circumstances connected with moral damage which should be reimbursed at the expense of the guilty parties according to operating legislation.

"it is also necessary to complete investigation against people who, employing the situation in Moscow which developed between September 21 and October 4, 1993, committed robberies, violence, acts of aggravated hooliganism and other law-breaking activities".

The prosecutor-general's office set up a commission to organise investigation into the case of October disorders. Results of its work will be reported later.

The prosecutor-general's office states at the same time that if pardoned people will again commit law violations, the office will use all its powers against law-breakers.

Defendants Assert Innocence

LD0103195894 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 1 Mar 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] A full stop has finally been put to the trial of the State Committee for the State of Emergency [SCSE], which has been dragging on for several years without result.

[Correspondent A. Pishchayev] The procedure for sealing the fate of the coup plotters took no more than three hours today. But this quick verdict did not serve to change the minds of those participating in the trial. As before, the defendants continued to maintain that they were not guilty of high treason.

On the subject of amnesty, they gave their full support, as this is in the name of so-called national reconciliation.

Pichenkin, Yazov's lawyer, said the Duma resolution reflects the will of the people, no more, no less. He called for this will to be carried through.

All the defendants called on the court to issue a resolution closing the SCSE case.

Defendant Varennikov said: All is apparently quite clear and simple, but I cannot understand who is giving me amnesty and for what. I can do the forgiving—of Gorbachev, of Valentin Stepankov, of Nishanov, of Trubin, for unlawful actions. He announced his petition requesting that criminal proceedings be started over the break-up of the Soviet Union.

Defendant Shenin said he saw no point in proving his innocence to a regime which has violated the law. I believe that Soviet power will return and sort everyone out, Shenin asserted.

The defendants and their lawyers said that throughout the whole SCSE trial the court came under pressure from the powers that be. Lawyer Ivanov accused Yeltsin's adviser Baturin of putting pressure on the former general procurator Kazannik, which warrants criminal proceedings, he said.

After a hearing of the state prosecution which insisted on continuing the case, the military tribunal decided to end the SCSE trial on the basis of the amnesty resolution.

So, the case is closed and at the flick of the Duma's finger, 1 March can now be regarded a day of reconciliation and justice.

Defendants Warned Against Lawbreaking

LD0203113294 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0900 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] The investigation into the criminal case instituted with regard to the organization of mass unrest on 3-4 October 1993 in the capital is continuing. This is set out in the statement from the information and public relations center of Russia's General Procuracy. It is noted in the report that the investigation has not yet been completed of the circumstances regarding the infliction of material damage, which, according to the legislation, is subject to compensation by those who are guilty of it. The investigation also needs to be completed regarding individuals who took advantage of the situation that had taken shape in Moscow from 21 September to 4 October 1933 and committed thefts, acts of violence, deliberate hooliganism, and other breaches of the law.

The general procuracy stressed that if those amnestied take the path of unlawful action again, it will use all the powers granted to it by the law that has come into force where there are conditions of unavoidable liability.

Rutskoy Accepts Legitimacy of New Legislature

LD0203120594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0836 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow March 2 ITAR-TASS—Former Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy, proclaimed Russia's president last autumn by Ruslan Khasbulatov's parliament already proclaimed dismissed by Yeltsin, said a couple of days after his release from jail last week that he accepts the legitimacy of the legislature Yeltsin created in the former parliament's place. This new legislature ruled on an amnesty which freed Rutskoy, Khasbulatov and other organisers of armed resistance to Yeltsin's move to crush the old Soviet-era parliament last October.

Rutskoy called for a spirit of reconciliation in Russia in a statement faxed to Russian and foreign news agencies on Wednesday. In the same statement he defended the armed resistance to Yeltsin's move last autumn.

Yeltsin Press Service Says No TV Address Planned

MK0203080094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 2 Mar 94 p 1

[Mikhail Gurevich report: "Don't Believe Anyone But President's Press Service and President Himself"]

[Text] The persistent speculation in the press about Yeltsin's television appearance still remains only speculation. It was not planned either for 28 February or 1 March (this information was available to MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS from the president's press service as this issue was going to print). The rumor about the appearance must have been raised by journalists' speculation which presidential aides Baturin and Satarov did not wish to deny, stating that it was "not far from the truth." In principle, the above aides could have said nothing at all because, as Yeltsin's press service officers stated to MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS, all official communiques about Yeltsin's addresses are supposed to come from it. Well, and—certainly—from the president himself.

Planned Edict 'Fairly Menacing'

MK0203091094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 94 p 1

[Ivan Rodin report in the "Parliament" column: "Has Time in the Kremlin Stopped? The Presidential Team Is Unhappy That the October Prisoners Were Released at the Onset of Spring"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Apparently the president, who Monday evening was planing to speak on TV, promulgating a certain edict, mothballed himself and some of his aides in the October environment. According to some reports, the proposed edict did not contain any specific tough measures, but its very tone was fairly menacing. According to one account, it was the unspecific and menacing verbiage of the edict that disappointed the president and resulted in cancellation of his TV appearance.

There is also another version. Boris Yeltsin's readiness to make a speech and the draft edict were used to bring pressure to bear on the Duma chairman and consequently on its deputies in the course of his evening meeting with Filatov, Satarov, Ilyushenko, and Yakovlev. Rybkin, however, apparently managed to propose to his guests a certain option, even if not very radical, to defuse the situation: that all power bodies, politicians, and political movements sign a joint memorandum on responsibility for the breach of civic peace in the country. Such a document was to be prepared by a working group including representatives of the Duma, the Prosecutor's Office, and the president. So far it is not known which credible guarantees that the Duma will assume part of its responsibility, including for the political conduct of the amnestied, that Ivan Rybkin managed to provide to the president's "right- and left-hand men." The fact that some guarantees were given, however, is confirmed indirectly by the words by a Duma apparatus officer who stated that the guests "came with one opinion but left with quite another."

Yet there is no certainty whatsoever that the lower chamber will want to vote for a memorandum on responsibility. First, this is not so essential now that the objective—freeing the "Lefortovo inmates"—has been accomplished. Second, to assume political responsibility for the actions, say, of Aleksandr Rutskoy is absolutely not in the interests of the communists or their allies, who are suspicious of the former vice president. Finally, even if the Duma does vote to assume responsibility—within its jurisdiction of course—for observance of civic peace in Russia, this still leaves the president, whose commitment to any memoranda cannot be guaranteed in any way. The greater part of the Duma deputies understands this very well and therefore one should expect prolonged debates on the expediency of adopting any document imposing on it any greater responsibility than stipulated by the constitution. [passage omitted]

Staff 'Bewildered' by Ilyushenko Appointment

MK0203082094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 94 p 1

["NG" report under the "In Brief" rubric: "Prosecutor's Office Bewildered"]

[Text] It has come to light that many among the prosecution staff are bewildered by the decision to appoint Aleksey Ilyushenko, former head of the Control Administration of the Russian Federation president's staff, as acting general prosecutor of the Russian Federation. Ilyushenko actively worked for the Interdepartmental Commission on Combating Crime and Corruption which was gathering damning evidence against some prominent figures of the Russian opposition, in particular against Aleksandr Rutskoy. A check on the information gathered by the Interdepartmental Commission was entrusted to the Moscow Prosecutor's Office. Some time later, it concluded that the charges of financial machinations against the former Russian vice president were unsupportable. Following this, a decision was made to institute a criminal libel suit. Theoretically, those to be tried were former members of the above Interdepartmental Commission, including Mr. Ilyushenko. One high-ranking Moscow Prosecutor's Office staffer has promised to speak to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA on this score in greater detail.

Golushko's Ouster Said Linked to Kazannik

MK0203083094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 2 Mar 94 p 1

[Dmitriy Kholodov report: "People Do Not Sit Very Long in Lubyanka. Will Sergey Stepashin Occupy the 'Rickety' Chair?"]

[Text] General Golushko's resignation has long been awaited—ever since the reorganization of the Security Ministry and even earlier—immediately after the 3-4

October events when the security bodies were charged with passivity. Still the action came as a surprise.

The firing of the recently appointed Federal Counterintelligence Service director can hardly be linked to the arrest of the Ames couple in the United States. They worked for the Foreign Intelligence Service. (In response to a request to comment on the arrest of a Russian agent in the United States, Viktor Zorin, chief of the Federal Counterintelligence Service's Counterintelligence Operations Department, advised that we turn to the Foreign Intelligence Service).

It is most likely that Golushko's resignation is closely related to [General Prosecutor] Kazannik's resignation. Noteworthy in this respect is a memorandum by presidential security adviser Yuriy Baturin pointing out that the Duma has issued an act of pardon and not of amnesty, thereby intruding into the president's jurisdiction. This memorandum carried an endorsement by Yeltsin himself to Kazannik, Yerin, and Golushko to act in accordance with instructions. Yerin and Golushko are directly concerned with the "instructions:" Lefortovo is a Security Ministry prison and it is now in the process of being transferred to the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

It is being suggested that Golushko refused to prevent the release of the inmates. At an emergency conference on 25 February with Yeltsin, attended by Kazannik, Ilyushenko, Yerin, and Baturin, the Federal Counterintelligence Service chief was not present. Apparently dark clouds were already beginning to loom over him. According to some reports, prior to signing the edict on Golushko's resignation, Yeltsin had a talk with him whereupon the rapid "resignation with no comment" followed. The edict does not even indicate the reason for Nikolay Golushko's departure: It was not until a little later that "family circumstances" were brought up as a reason.

Yeltsin Edict on General Prosecutor's Resignation

PM0103161194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Mar 94 Second Edition p 1

[Edict No. 391 of the Russian Federation President dated Moscow, The Kremlin, 26 February 1994 and signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin: "On The Russian Federation General Prosecutor"]

[Text] Russian Federation General Prosecutor A.I. Kazannik has tendered his resignation.

Guided by subpoint "F" of Article 83 of the Russian Federation Constitution I rule that:

1. A proposal on releasing Aleksey Ivanovich Kazannik from the post of Russian Federation general prosecutor at his own request should be submitted to the Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council.

2. Aleksey Nikolayevich Ilyushenko should be presented to the Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council as a candidate for appointment to the post of Russian Federation general prosecutor.

3. Until a Russian Federation general prosecutor is appointed his duties should be carried out by Aleksey Nikolayevich Ilyushenko.

4. This edict comes into force the moment it is signed.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin

[Dated] Moscow, Moscow, 26 February 1994

Khasbulatov Interviewed on Release From Jail

PM0103134594 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 1 Mar 94 p 2

[Interview with Ruslan Khasbulatov by Vitaliy Shestopalov on 27 February, place not specified: "Ruslan Khasbulatov: There Is No Torture Worse Than Lies"]

[Text] Ruslan Khasbulatov, former chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, met with your SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA correspondent on Sunday and gave him an interview specially for our newspaper.

[Shestopalov] Ruslan Khasbulatov, readers of SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA congratulate you on your return home.

[Khasbulatov] Thank you!

[Shestopalov] How did you spend your first day?

[Khasbulatov] The first thing that I did was familiarize myself with the place again and I hope this will not seem strange but I was sort of trying to get used to it...

[Shestopalov note] The telephone did not stop ringing in the apartment with people offering congratulations. Khasbulatov began receiving his first telegrams in Lefortovo on 23 February.

[Shestopalov] Was there nothing from President Dudayev of Chechnya? You are fellow countrymen after all!

[Khasbulatov] There was nothing from Dudayev (Khasbulatov smiles). To the best of my knowledge he helped the present regime in the struggle against the parliament. It is rumored that apart from large sums of money he intended to send a detachment of volunteers to Moscow to help the OMON special purpose militia and "Beytar." But the volunteers did not come, of course.... Otherwise they would have gone over to our side.

[Shestopalov] Were you able to read SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Lefortovo?

[Khasbulatov] I asked for it as soon as the authorities "liberated" the newspaper. I felt a need for objective information.

You know what is the strangest thing to have to endure in jail?.. The "Mayak" radio station and radio "Rossiya." From morning till night you get nothing but streams of primitive lies. It is amazing where they get so much nonsense from, what kind of think tank they must have to produce those lies every hour? Lies are the most terrible form of torture!

Primitive propaganda is based on elementary human forgetfulness. Take, for example, the Bosnian problem, which Yeltsin's press presents to us as an "outstanding diplomatic triumph." But where were Messrs. Kozyrev and Yeltsin 18 months ago? Remember how many sessions of the Supreme Soviet were dedicated to this most important question of Russian foreign policy. What didn't they accuse the Supreme Soviet of then—pan-Slavism and flirting with the patriots!

They have no other way out today! Can air strikes against Serbia, NATO maneuvers, and blind support for U.S. initiatives really bring the regime success? That is why they were forced to adopt the option once proposed by the Supreme Soviet....

There is much to be amazed at....

I closely studied Yeltsin's message to the Federal Assembly and the State Duma. I was very surprised! The message is 90 percent made up of things that I said at congresses of people's deputies beginning with the sixth congress. Thus the president's team, which prepared this material, has accepted the Supreme Soviet's assessments. There is something else that amazes me, too! These people are incapable of performing the present task because they are bent on the destruction of Russia and on waging war against their own people. Yeltsin's team has more interpreters in it than professionals...

[Shestopalov] In your view, what mistakes did the Supreme Soviet leadership make in the tragic weeks of September-October?

[Khasbulatov] That is hardly the way to put the question. The constitution which Yeltsin so fiercely rejected was a whole magnitude better and more democratic than his brainchild. I do not know how the present "creation" is legitimate. What is its basis? The will of the people? I doubt it very much! It was thrown at the people without discussion. And then they began insinuating: if you do not accept it there will be civil war! You can hardly suspect MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS of antipathy toward Yeltsin although even that newspaper wrote about "trickery" when the votes were counted.

Remember, the president carried out a coup d'etat. What should the Supreme Soviet do? It should act in full accordance with the existing Constitution! Which is what the leadership did! We proceeded first and foremost from that very Constitution on which Yeltsin himself took the oath. We proceeded in particular from Article 121 of Point 10 ratified by Yeltsin when he was chairman of the Supreme Soviet.

I was blamed for calling the Armed Forces into action. In accordance with the law on defense, the Armed Forces are subordinate to "the Supreme Soviet of Russia, the President of Russia" under Article 10. Note that the word "president" here comes second. Something else is enshrined in the Constitution... The Armed Forces are the guarantor of the Constitution, hence the call for their protection. After all, the appeal was not to use their tanks to fire on the Russian parliament but to protect it!.. We acted in full accordance with the law. We managed to convene a Congress of People's Deputies which retained the full range of power.

[Shestopalov] How justified was the appointment of the new power ministers?

[Khasbulatov] I make no secret of the fact that there was a different viewpoint in existence. I wanted to create a kind of Military Council using old and new ministers. But the figures of Yerin and Grachev did not have sufficient standing. In addition, there was the crisis situation in the Security Ministry at that time. There were lots of persistent voices calling for the replacement of the ministers. There were also those demanding the replacement of the government in its entirety.

But it cannot be said that we acted correctly all the time! The extreme situation caused mistakes. I must mention one fact. The leaders of many of the major plants, using the threat of dismissal, banned thousands of workers from coming to the aid of those who were defending people's power at the House of the Soviets. Historians will have the task of examining all this honestly.

[Shestopalov] What are your plans for the immediate future!

[Khasbulatov] I am not afraid of the courts! But I do not intend going back into politics. I do not see any worthy individuals to cooperate with. I shall work at science, I shall write a book. That will mean getting involved in dozens of problems... Jail is jail. The radio station "Mayak" alone is enough to "beat" your brains out (he laughs).

Khasbulatov lit a pipe.

[Shestopalov] Ruslan Imranovich, where is the pipe which, it is rumored, Boris Nikolayevich broke in a rage?

[Khasbulatov] I do not know which pipe he broke. I still have mine with me.

As I was leaving I asked him the fundamental question—to whom will history give the final word?

[Khasbulatov] Not Yeltsin... That is for sure. He is doomed. It is he who will have to answer for Grachev for the tanks, for Yerin for the OMON, and for Luzhkov for the Beytarovtsy. Their judgment day is still to come.

Former Lefortovo Inmate Anpilov Interviewed

PM0103165994 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Mar 94 p 1

[Interview with Viktor Anpilov by Valentina Nikiforova, under the general heading "Spring. Another Thaw in Russia?"; date and place not given: "Evening Conversation with Viktor Anpilov"]

[Text] On the very day that the decree on the amnesty was being adopted, the freedom-loving State Duma deputies from Russia's Choice began shouting: "Now Anpilov is getting out of Lefortovo and will call his thugs out onto the

streets!" The same prediction was made by alarmed television commentators. "The freed criminals will cause unrest in Moscow" they said, trying to intimidate the viewers by showing the former convicts leaving prison.

Well, in that case how can you avoid asking the now freed Viktor Anpilov about the unrest that he is planning in Moscow? Here is his reply on his first evening at home.

[Anpilov] There will be no unrest. I have always strictly observed the laws.

[Nikiforova] Viktor Ivanovich, does that mean you do not regard yourself as guilty?

[Anpilov] It does not matter what I think. During the five months that I spent in prison they did not present a single piece of evidence against me even though from the very outset I wanted a judicial investigation and had even prepared my speech for the trial. But to call someone a criminal before the trial is not allowed even under the new Constitution. As I was leaving prison I said: If life had improved over these past five months that would have been the weightiest evidence of my guilt, but it has deteriorated considerably and people are protesting. Of course there must be an objective investigation into the causes and all the circumstances of the events of September and October.

[Nikiforova] Nevertheless, could you say a few words about your immediate plans....

[Anpilov] I intend to travel and meet with labor collectives. I shall go to Tula, Vorkuta, Chelyabinsk, and Yekaterinburg—I want to tell people the whole truth about what happened in May and September-October last year. In the conditions which have been created, the labor collectives must become owners of their own enterprises—they alone have the right to dispose of everything built by them, they alone have the right to dispose of their output and set the wages of the administration. This will be the dictatorship of the proletariat.

[Nikiforova] So does that mean back to work for you? There must have been much to think about and reassess, surely?

[Anpilov] I wrote a book in prison—I called it "The Lefortovo Dialogues. A Prison Synopsis of Hegel's Lectures." I wrote it in the form of the transcript of a conversation between a Prisoner and the great thinkers, from Socrates and Plato to Lenin. They are conversations about the state and the rule of law. The dialogue with Lenin was about how the greatest revolution was lost and why.

[Nikiforova] And in conclusion....

[Anpilov] My thanks to the PRAVDA collective for their solidarity and support. Let us stand up together for the position of the struggling proletariat!

Ye'tsin Aides Hold Briefing on Amnesty Decree

PM0103150994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Mar 94 First Edition p 2

[Vasiliy Kononenko report: "Counterintelligence Chief Removed. This Is Only the Beginning...."]

[Text] In a democratic system you get surprises. One such surprise was the appearance of the State Duma's decision about the amnesty. Stories as to how this came about have been weighed up but it is impossible to weigh up everything, especially as this did lie in the power of those participating in the analysis. This is how the president's representative in the Federal Assembly A.M. Yakovlev evasively explained the release of the October mutiny's instigators and the pardoning of the members of the State Committee for the State of Emergency in accordance with the State Duma amnesty. He, together with his colleagues from the Russian Federation president's entourage Yu. Baturin and G. Satarov, held a briefing 28 February at the Kremlin, which was almost entirely devoted to an analysis of the situation which has developed over the State Duma's decree on the amnesty.

A.M. Yakovlev drew journalists' attention to the legislation's flaws which, according to him, were the reason for the presidential team's insufficiently clear and coordinated actions in response to the State Duma's decree on the amnesty. Apart from this, information was received claiming that work was in progress in the State Duma's apparatus with a view to amending the decree's text, and this factor was not taken into consideration. Moreover, a letter from General Prosecutor A. Kazannik was sent to the State Duma. It contained six basic points which essentially were aimed at removing the bias of the decree on the amnesty. Here, G. Satarov expressed himself more categorically: According to him it is actually the inconsistency in the stance of the Prosecutor's Office which has been a key element in this whole story.

The general prosecutor sends a letter to the State Duma saying that its decree on the amnesty violates Russian legislation, and then, with unprecedented speed for this department, adopts a decision about releasing this group of well-known people from custody.

G. Satarov was asked a question about the accuracy of reports that M. Gorbachev entertains the possibility that the document was submitted for President B. Yeltsin's preliminary approval. G. Satarov replied: "This issue could not have been submitted for the president's approval, which I. Rybkin confirmed in conversation with me 26 February."

Nevertheless, the briefing's participants assured us that they had expected such a turn of events, though they did not produce any arguments backing up what they said. According to Satarov, the president has planned corresponding actions concerning the defense of human rights which will be announced in the near future.

The journalists regarded the report that Federal Counter-intelligence Service Director N. Golushko had been dismissed from his post (the president signed the relevant edict 28 February) as a sensation.

Filatov Comments on Amnesty Issues

LD0103233394

[Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 1645 GMT on 1 March carries an 8-minute "Current Affairs Commentator's Studio" program. The program starts with an introduction over video footage of the State Duma in session and Rutskoy and Khasbulatov being released. The amnesty is referred to as the focal point of the week.

The unidentified interviewer tells S.A. Filatov, head of the Russian president's administration, that he will ask him about the amnesty later, but first asks Filatov to speak about the decrees signed by Yeltsin last week. Filatov starts off by talking about Yeltsin's decree on the award to Patriarch Aleksey II of All Russia of the Order of the Friendship of Peoples on the occasion of his 60th birthday. He praises the patriarch for his work towards the stabilization of society and congratulates him.

Filatov states that 50 decrees were issued last week in all. He briefly refers to the decree on the release of Kazannik from the post of procurator general and his replacement. He discusses the two trends at the State Duma—those who wish to get off to a fresh start without any investigations,and those who want to mark a political victory. Filatov does not perceive agreement among the parliamentarians in spite of such decisions as the "memorandum on accord.

The interviewer comments that a lot seemed to happen on the night of Friday to Saturday, and asks Filatov what he learned on a visit to the prosecutor's office today. Filatov complains that the procuracy was also riven with differences. He says that there seemed to be an instruction to release those amnestied as soon as possible. He notes that the president as the guarantor of the constitution was powerless to do anything about what happened.

The interviewer notes that Filatov spoke to the president this morning and asks Filatov what Yeltsin's reaction was. Filatov replies: "Well, the president is naturally concerned about what happened. Undoubtedly he is. The greatest perplexity is evoked by the fact that he addressed a definite message to the State Duma. He asked them to explain a number of positions, because in that message in general the question is formulated of it not being an amnesty but a pardon. This is the prerogative of the president alone. He asked for an explanation of these issues. At least one might have expected that no action would be taken until a reply was received to that message. Well, when it was necessary the Supreme Soviet even used to meet at night. If it was an emergency situation, the State Duma could have been convened quickly. They are here. They had not yet left Moscow for anywhere else. Therefore, if it is a question of an emergency or is becoming a question of an emergency, then one should react to that in the relevant manner. But to simply carry out the decision of the Duma just like that, or to compel it to be carried out, so to speak, without even replying to the president's message, is not just lack of respect, but one cannot even find the words to describe it. If there was such a a hurry—the first question I put is why it was done in such a tearing hurry. Furthermore, they even told me that a duty officer was sitting in the editorial office of the State Duma, waiting to print the document in a hurry, and it was to be sat on for as long as possible before it went to the presidential structures. It was to be submitted in such a way that no reaction was any longer possible. But I did not know, I thought that Saturday and Sunday might turn out to be very serious in their consequences."

The interviewer asks Filatov whether executive power is ready to react sufficiently if Ampilov and his supporters organize street fighting again. Filatov replies that it is up to the State Duma to deal with that, since they have released people for whom they have taken responsibility, as it were. He stresses the need for the State Duma to understand its responsibilty and ensure the safety of the public.

Colonel Achalov Discusses Amnesty, Future Plans

PM0103151194 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 1 Mar 94 p 1

[Sergey Turchenko report incorporating interview with Colonel General V.A. Achalov: "Three Days After State Duma Decision on Amnesty, Lefortovo Prisoners Have Been Freed"]

[Excerpts] Dozens of journalists and hundreds of representatives of the capital's patriotic movements gathered at the main entrance to Lefortovo Special Prison on the frosty morning of 26 February. And above the heads of the gathering could be seen crimson banners, numerous placards proclaiming "Freedom to the Defenders of the Motherland!" and "All Power to the Soviets!", and huge portraits of Rutskoy, Khasbulatov, Achalov, Makashov, and Anpilov.... [passage omitted]

The next morning, I met with Colonel General Vladislav Alekseyevich Achalov, and the first question I asked him was how he would explain the confusion that reigned as they were leaving Lefortovo, and why they came out through different gates. He answered:

[Achalov] It is clear that the amnesty decision was coordinated with Yeltsin. But it is perfectly obvious what pressure was put on him by "Russia's Choice" and the other ardent democrats. The result of this pressure was, evidently, Yeltsin's appeal to Kazannik proposing a delay. So that to the end, no one knew for sure whether we would be freed or not. It was only at 1500 hours that the investigator summoned me and said that the decision had been made, and I gathered my things. The prison chiefs came into the cell and said good-bye. We were all warned that a very large crowd had gathered at the main entrance. They asked us whether we intended to give interviews. I asked which mass media had gathered there. I was told: Mainly the foreign and "democratic" mass media. I refused to give an

interview and decided to come out through the staff door. Everyone did what they considered feasible.

[Turchenko] What is your attitude to the amnesty?

[Achalov] I do not perceive this amnesty as my having received a pardon. I am not guilty of anything. Judge for yourselves. The only thing that they questioned me about in five months was who was with me and what I was doing 21 September through 4 October. There was not one confrontation, not one identification. And, as of 17 December, the questioning stopped altogether—there was nothing to ask about. True, they did submit forensic findings on the corpses. It was terrible! Some of them had up to 15 bullet wounds. Was it really necessary to shoot people? Those are the cases which should be investigated.

[Turchenko] What are your plans for the future?

[Achalov] The State Duma has elaborated a stance of national reconciliation. No matter where I work, I will support it. I know what war is, and I do not want our people to experience it in full measure. The people themselves have already realized what's what. The elections showed this. And the fact that Gaydar has now left the government means that he has run away from responsibility. Other "national zealots" are doing the same. Sooner or later, the people will make them answerable. But now we have to think about how to save Russia and prevent a civil war. [passage omitted]

Situation After Prisoners' Release Examined

LD0103190794

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1725 GMT on 1 March carries the "Details" program, hosted by Sergey Dorenko, who discusses the balance of political forces in Russia after the release of the coup plotters from Lefortovo Prison over the weekend.

Dorenko introduces Ivan Rybkin, chairman of the State Duma, as an intelligent and diplomatic politician who was largely responsible for pacifying passions after the release. Rybkin had a meeting with President Yeltsin today, described by Dorenko as "scandalous because it did not produce any scandal." Dorenko continues: "Rybkin was surprised at the haste with which the Lefortovo inmates were released, said he did not know anything about the presidential staff pressurizing Kazannik, and declared that any fresh disturbances with old protagonists taking part will be suppressed by the president, whose actions will be supported by the Duma." Rybkin is then briefly shown comparing the coup plotters with some spoiled children who "screamed and cried, stamped their feet, or maybe dropped on the floor in the kitchen and kicked and got all covered with jam—well, such things happen, you know."

Yeltsin's aide Georgiy Satarov then says in a short interview: "During the conversation when presidential staff tried to stop the procurator signing the amnesty order, Kazannik several times suggested disbanding the Duma—he returned to this option about three times. It was Kazannik, the knight of righteousness who is guarding the law, who proposed this."

On the other hand, Dorenko says, "Rybkin could have made a good snake-charmer. He speaks in the quiet voice of a self-assured person. I entered his study today fully convinced that the authorities were going through another relationship crisis, and reemerged fully convinced that I had been hallucinating." "After the Duma won the main point, Ivan Rybkin is ready to make concessions about secondary points," he adds.

Rybkin then says in an interview clip: "God forbid that those who are being released today thanks to the magnanimity of their country, the president, and the State Duma should spurn it or forget about it and start again, in the Moscow streets or elsewhere, the political thuggery which led to the tragic events of 4 October. The president, together with the State Duma and the Federation Council, will take most severe measures to stop such behavior. My personal opinion is that they [putschists] will have enough goodwill, intelligence, and human decency to behave differently."

Dorenko then comments on the chances of a state of emergency being introduced. He says this is unlikely because neither the Duma nor Yeltsin's closest entourage are interested in it. He continues: "I understood from my conversation with Rybkin today that he would not play the card of miners' discontent, so that the idea of introducing the state of emergency would not as much as enter the president's mind." "The main compromise of the day is that the Duma has exchanged the release of Lefortovo prisoners for their arrest in case of even the slightest future misbehavior. Rybkin has managed to persuade Yeltsin that this is exactly what he, Yeltsin, has always wanted. As for the Kazannik episode, which looks so vexatiously embarrassing against this idyllic background, the authorities say it was just a misunderstanding," Dorenko concludes.

Implications of Lefortovo Prisoners Release Eyed

PM0103161394 Moscow TRUD in Russian 1 Mar 94 Night Edition p 1

[Feature by Yuriy Dmitriyev, Nikolay Dorofeyev, and Nikolay Kishkin: "'Universal Forgiveness': Does This Road Lead to the Temple of Accord?"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] **What Are We To Expect?**

This question is of concern to everyone now. Will the hasty amnesty not entail outbursts of extremism and lead to a new standoff of the powers? Journalists asked presidential apparatus staffers about this at a briefing yesterday.

A. Yakovlev, the president's representative in parliament, does not rule out such a development of events. In his opinion, special attention must be given to May Day this year, which, if we recall the past, might be exploited by extremist forces. Presidential aide G. Satarov declared that B. Yeltsin is taking measures to iron out as far as possible

the negative consequences of what has happened. At the same time the same intention can be perceived among a section of deputies, or, at any rate, among those who voted for the act of amnesty in the sincere belief that it would lead to civil reconciliation. For Satarov believes (and Duma Speaker I. Rybkin concurs) that the deputies have become the hostages of their own decision and of the future conduct of those whom they have set free, and so an outburst of extremism and an exacerbation of the political situation will strike at their authority above all. Of course, we must not disregard the fact that there are forces, in parliament too, which will attempt to start their own political game on the basis of the act of amnesty. But it is not they, in the end, who play the decisive role.

The presidential spokesmen resolutely rejected the report that appeared somewhere or other alleging that the president is preparing a state of emergency to combat crime, which will then be used to crush the opposition. "Nonsense," came the reply. Such rumors are being spread for the quite deliberate purpose of inflaming the situation in the country....

Satarov does not believe that the release of the Lefortovo inmates will sharply complicate cooperation between the president and parliament. Following the head of state's message, Duma committees have begun constructive work on implementing the strategic plan enshrined in that document. It has itself been greeted with understanding in parliament.

Yet, what are the implications of a return to politics by the organizers of the October riots, and will it materialise? R. Khasbulatov can scarcely count on anything. Evidently realizing this, he has already made the statement that he will not engage in political activity. As for A. Rutskoy, the possibility cannot be ruled out that his name will be exploited by antipresidential forces to undermine the policy of reforms. V. Mironov, deputy chairman of the State Duma Security Committee, believes that "the organizers of the October events might be thrown by the opposition, like penal battalions, into undermining democracy and civil peace." V. Anpilov has already shown up at a noisy rally in Teatralnaya and declared his intention "to fight against the present regime" right after coming out of Lefortovo.

If, after the amnesty, the political struggle develops not in civilized forms, then the factions which voted for it, basing their stance on the search for civil peace, will find themselves in a very difficult position. This primarily concerns the Party of Russian Unity and Accord, whose votes enabled the Duma to adopt the decision to release the Lefortovo inmates. Evidently sensing this, S. Shakhray, the party's leader, has already issued a statement: "The political organizations which sought only a political amnesty must assume responsibility for the actions of the freed leaders. If they intend to continue the struggle at the elections, like other citizens of the Russian Federation, this is a normal phenomenon; but if their chosen means of struggle is appeals to seize, destroy, or shoot, this means that new criminal cases will be instituted and there will be no accord and reconciliation."

The possibility cannot be ruled out that in the event of an outburst of extremism parliament will have to take some additional measures if it wants to be aware of the danger to the country of such a development of events. Deputy K. Zatulin, for example, proposed "discussing in the Duma the question of a possible ban on political activity by active participants in the events of October 1993."

In the meanwhile it is clear that things have not become calmer in the country at this time.

Kostikov Responds to Criticisms of Yeltsin

PM0203110194 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 24 Feb 94 p 3

[Interview with Vyacheslav Kostikov, Russian president's press secretary, by Olga Kuchkina; place and date not given: "Who Does President Go to the Bathhouse With? Questions Put to Press Secretary and His Replies"]

[Text] [Kuchkina] What does the press secretary's job entail: dispelling rumors, telling the truth as it is, shaping the president's image, or to some extent adjusting policy?

[Kostikov] This job is relatively new in our political setup, and there are no hard-and-fast rules. When I had my first conversation with B.N. [Yeltsin] he set me no tasks, evidently based on my sound reputation as a democratic journalist. So the press service and the press secretary have been shaped by me myself depending on my level of political culture and, of course, society's level of political development.

[Kuchkina] What is the mechanism for your statements? At the president's request? Your own initiative, when you have picked something out? Do you make a statement autonomously or do you agree everything with the president?

[Kostikov] It depends on the specific case. If what is needed is an official reaction on a complex question with political or economic consequences, everything is agreed.

[Kuchkina] Even including the wording?

[Kostikov] As a rule the president sets the political tone. He says two or three key phrases which provide the opportunity to formulate something in the context of the situation that has arisen. There are various forms depending on the weight we want to impart to the statement. For instance, sometimes I say: I am authorized to state—then it is clearly coming from the president. Whether [a statement is made] on the president's or the press secretary's initiative, it is always with the president's consent. But the press secretary has no pretensions to pass everything off as the president's opinion.

[Kuchkina] What if B.N. reacts to something by saying: Why did you do that?

[Kostikov] That has not happened. I may be mistaken as to a particular detail, but the president is too broad-minded a man and too big a statesman to react to minor mistakes.

[Kuchkina] I had thought about your job and wanted to ask certain questions when I saw and heard on television something the whole country saw and heard, once and then a second time, namely that on Saturdays Vladimir Volfovich Zhirinovskiy apparently goes to the bathhouse with the president and plays checkers with him, and that he is generally pleased that everything is proceeding correctly; Gaydar and Fedorov have already departed and Kozyrev and Chubays are next in line; that is, it is as if he gives the orders and the president executes them obediently, which amounts to a public backslapping of the president. It is apparently the press secretary's job to give society some explanation regarding this, and I waited for you to do so. You kept silent. Why? Is it an oversight or did you have nothing to object to since the foregoing is the truth?

[Kostikov] I will explain why I did not react. Naturally it is utter nonsense: Zhirinovskiy has not once met with the president tete-a-tete, he was invited to the Kremlin only once for a meeting with B.N. as one of a number of faction leaders on the threshold of the elections and referendum.

[Kuchkina] That is, no personal meetings?

[Kostikov] None. The president did not go to the bathhouse with him, did not walk along snowy paths, did not drink cognac, and did not sit down at the same table. It is typical loudmouth mendacity on Zhirinovskiy's part. Which, incidentally, is not characteristic of him alone. It is a level of nonsense to which the press secretary should not react.

[Kuchkina] I cannot agree with you. What is obvious to you is completely unobvious to the mass of people who, having swallowed some piece of information, draw their own conclusions. Not about Zhirinovskiy as a loudmouth liar who takes people in but who does not have a hand laid on him, but about a turnaround by Yeltsin and about a possible secret pact with Zhirinovskiy, about which certain politicians and newspapermen both here and in the West are readily spreading rumors. I think these things do great harm to the president and his policies. A mass attack is in progress. Several times I have been sent local newspapers, most of which are in the hands of the democrats' opponents, let us call them that, and they print the most brazen lies, the most blatant antidemocratic, antipresidential propaganda, and in the provinces people simply read the local press and believe it. Especially when the voice of denial does not reach them from here. Up to now television has been a kind of government channel and if Zhirinovskiy says something on it, that means it is true. The democrats' arrogance has already played its fateful role. Why repeat the same mistakes? Why not issue a press release one day saying that this, this, and this are lies? In any form, even a witty one. In my view one simply has to "lower oneself." Not to political intrigues but to people who are interested to know whether the Liberal Democratic Party leader is in fact so powerful.

[Kostikov] I think the press has fallen down on the job here. If a journalist, an agency, or a newspaper had called me the next day and asked, I would have responded. I dream of giving weekly briefings for journalists. The organizational difficulty is that to hold them without a preliminary conversation between the press secretary and the president would be of no interest to journalists, and B.N. has a very hectic schedule. But I had a conversation with B.N. on this subject and he agreed that before every briefing we would have a quiet half-hour together. I hope that he has now recovered, God grant him health....

[Kuchkina] Let us talk about health. The well-known story of the telephone conversation that never took place, when one president could not find the other, or the other could not wait long by the telephone—here you expressed yourself in the same way as you did regarding items in the press associated with the subject of health. True, rather mutedly. I rarely frequent "society," but every time I do I hear "totally accurate" information "received from competent sources" that the president has a tumor in this or that place, that he is not long for this world, that soon everything will be over. I live near the White House: In September-October these rumors were being persistently spread among the crowd there. They have now spread to official offices, to ceremonial launches, and everyone declares that he knows all about this. I would like to hear information from you because I know how disinformation is circulated, including that with a political aim.

[Kostikov] You have partly answered the question yourself. As regards the telephone: When communications are set up, and that means interpreters and technical services enter the conversation—both presidents have to be near the telephone. Our president was at the telephone twice. He waited a decent time but Clinton was either not in the vicinity or was late. Indeed, when Clinton was here we saw that he was tardy for every event.

[Kuchkina] Did Yavlinskiy not tell journalists that Clinton could not get through to Yeltsin but his American acquaintance got through to him at night, saying: Grisha, if you have the only telephone in Russia on which it is possible to converse, why do you and not the president have it?

[Kostikov] Well, that is halfway to being a joke among friends. As regards ill health. The press and society are entitled to monitor the president's health and demand reports on it, but only when this is done normally and with good intentions, whereas when political speculation begins.... That is why I said God grant him health. When you work long enough in a particular team a element of family feeling arises. I say this as I used to say God grant health to Vasiliy Semenovich, my father, when he was alive. Or like I say this to my mother. It is natural human warmth. But on the other hand, you realize that the president's health is national capital, especially in our case, when the level of political stability in the country depends directly on Yeltsin. Therefore we all suffer when B.N. becomes run-down or catches a cold, like now, or, like six months ago, when his radiculitis became exacerbated. As regards speculation, I have noticed that this wave usually begins abroad, and in a few days safely completes the migration to our press. There is nothing accidental here, the president is a major political figure who stands in many

people's way. Just watch which newspapers this appears in—the attentive reader or analyst will see everything clearly.

[Kuchkina] That just applies to an analyst. While I, I repeat, am talking about society, which does not consist wholly of analysts, and this massive barrage of rumors is doing its destructive work.

[Kostikov] My position is that it is still necessary to take account of people's psychology. For 70 years it has not been the done thing in this country to talk about the health of supreme great leaders [vozhd] and other leaders [lider]. Just like before those 70 years. In churches prayers were said every day for the health of the sovereign emperor, but that is as far as it went. In the people's opinion the leader is somewhere high up there and there are things about which it is not done to speak. Unlike the West, where a leader's every step and every gesture is on view, and the leaders themselves encourage this. B.N.'s health is entirely normal for a man of his age. His mother died recently at a ripe old age, all his relatives have lived a very long time, and he comes from very vigorous genetic stock.

[Kuchkina] So everything I mentioned is lies?

[Kostikov] Even dishonorable lies.

[Kuchkina] What about the rumor that he is completely incapable of working, not up to the job, insane?...

[Kostikov] The situation is completely the reverse. The president is doing a great deal of work. He is a workaholic. He virtually works a 24-hour day.

[Kuchkina] I think you are incorrect in saying that in the people's opinion a leader is somewhere high up and remote. We have managed to get used to Yeltsin as a democratic leader, as one of us, which is why the people followed him as a person who is close to them. But lately he has somehow kept aloof at inaccessible heights, he has shut himself away. It is the accepted thing to gossip about his aloofness at crucial and noncrucial moments. This particularly applies to the night of 3 October—why he did not address television viewers? In this case I personally know why. Because at that time he was tackling a task of immense importance and he had to solve it before appearing on the screen and addressing the people. But why is he absent now? Notwithstanding the fact that he is terribly busy he must return to contacts with society in one form or another.

[Kostikov] I quite agree with you, and the letters we are receiving contain the refrain: Return our president of old to us, we want to see him on a truck with a megaphone, in a crowd, among us....

[Kuchkina] No, I do not buy that, I subscribe to a completely different view. A change of tasks has occurred.

[Kostikov] Yes. Previously it was necessary to win power in order to protect democracy, power is now in his hands. An enormous country and an enormous burden of power.

[Kuchkina] I am not talking about going on walkabouts among the people or about video clips. I am talking about necessary appearances and the manifestation of his presidential will now, when the social situation is so complex.

[Kostikov] The situation is in fact alarming. The state of the Federal Assembly, especially the State Duma, causes the greatest concern. There were hopes that the Duma would be different, more professional, and wiser, but we can see that leaders of factions are not at all concerned that Russia needs judicial reform, laws which would indicate the parameters of a market economy. So much time has passed but the Duma has still not gotten down to its legislative work. Many leaders went there to make political capital, to flex their political biceps.

[Kuchkina] You are emphasizing the Duma at a time when a considerable amount of criticism has been concentrated on the government, and it can be seen that changing its course involves danger, as does changing the president's course. But I want to draw your attention to Kronid Lyubarskiy's sensational NOVOYE VREMYA article entitled "Falsification." Apart from describing cases of blatant substitution [?of ballot rigging] [podstanovka] and sharp practice, the author resorts to scientific mathematical models and shows that if there is a constant electorate in cities of 70 percent for reforms, 20 percent against, and 10 percent neither for nor against, that is, Zhirinovskiy's former electorate, and scientifically speaking it is impossible to have such a change of correlations as occurred 12 December. The falsifiers were convinced that a thief is not a thief unless he is caught in the act. But mathematics is a crafty thing, it reveals deceit even in places where it has apparently been well concealed. In this context the author talks of the "poorly heard voice of the majority," in adapting to which the president and government have started adjusting their policy, and that is their dramatic mistake.

[Kostikov] First, summaries of, so to speak, states of mind, sentiments, and expectations are regularly put on the president's desk. He is aware of all this. Second, I do not know of a single step by the president which would attest to a change in his democratic orientation. If you listen to his Message to the Federal Assembly, all guidelines for democratic reforms are clearly stipulated there. There is no retreat.

[Kuchkina] What about the departure of Gaydar and Fedorov?

[Kostikov] It was they who departed. The president did not instigate their departure in any way. On the contrary, as far as I know he devoted a great deal of effort to get Gaydar, Pamfilova, and Fedorov to stay.

[Kuchkina] People say that the president is powerless in relation to the premier?

[Kostikov] There is no powerlessness of any kind. The president and the premier each have their own set of powers. B.N. does not want to violate this setup and interfere in all the actions of another plenipotentiary figure. At the end of the day economic policy is entrusted

to the premier. The president determines the broad course. But the government implements it. The president can dismiss the entire government, but first it must have a chance to carry out the president's wishes, implementing them by the methods which it thinks best. I personally think that Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin himself does not realize the full extent of the seriousness of the aspirations of those who are acting behind his back.

[Kuchkina] What about his consultations with Starodubtsev?

[Kostikov] You know, I would very much like B.N. to ask the premier this question in a personal conversation. Does Starodubtsev have such a wealth of experience in forming the agricultural economy's structures that in the reform process they will ultimately be able to start feeding Russia? In this sense has the experience of the State Committee for the State of Emergency been devalued? Generally the president and premier have good personal contacts. In addition, while highly appraising Gaydar's acts on the night of 3-4 October, when he went out into the square in front of Moscow City Soviet, I cannot fail to give due credit to Chernomyrdin's chivalrous—in the full sense of the word—conduct on the same and the preceding days, when he adopted a pro-presidential position without hesitation and did not deviate from it.

[Kuchkina] That is correct. But what can you say about Chernomyrdin's defense of Gerashchenko? The democratic press has been full of criticism of Gerashchenko's autonomous policy associated with the "illegal cash office," whereby prior to the October days "under-the-counter" trillions disappeared goodness knows where, that is, it is known where—on support for the Supreme Soviet; with monetary reform in the summer; and with the unification of finances with Belarus, for which Russians will pay dearly, and a clear position on the restoration of the Soviet empire can be discerned behind everything.

[Kostikov] Oh, how I would love to obtain answers to all these questions! But allow me to confine myself to saying that.

[Kuchkina] Which of the president's reactions do you recall as being the strongest?

[Kostikov] Like every Russian man he is very emotional inside and restrained outwardly. Maybe one moment has remained the most striking for me. When his mother died. For the first and only time I saw him weep. And again when people were preparing to impeach him and he went out onto the congress platform without preparation and delivered himself of a very powerful emotional performance.

[Kuchkina] Do you happen to know why the president said in a conversation with Ryazanov that he never thinks about death? Is he not afraid of dying?

[Kostikov] I think...because he has already done something for Russia. Who is afraid of dying? He who has done nothing, accomplished nothing, and not fulfilled himself. B.N. is doing something to which he devotes his whole self as a moral person.

Yeltsin Aides Discuss Administration Setup

LD0103181094

[Editorial Report] St. Petersburg Fifth Channel Television in Russian at 2000 GMT on 20 February 1994 as the final item of ITOGI, broadcasts an interview with Sergey Filatov, head of the Russian President's administration and Viktor Ilyushin, Yeltsin's first aide by announcer Yevgeniy Kiselev.

Kiselev begins his report by saying that a plan for restructuring the presidential staff was submitted to Yeltsin and, according to Kiselev, was approved by the president on 18 February. Rumor has it that two conflicting plans were drawn up by Filatov and by Ilyushin, Kiselev say. Did this mean that the presidential entourage was split into two conflicting groupings led by these two people? The joint interview by Filatov and Ilyushin was given specially to clarify the situation.

Kiselev asks them which of their two plans Yeltsin had given preference to. Filatov says: "We have a joint, agreed version on which we worked together. We are in fact continuing to form the presidential administration—a process started last year. It has two aspects. The president's aides are in charge of one aspect that involves day-to-day organization of work and operational assistance. The other is the bureaucratic aspect that deals with the purely administrative facilities for implementing this work."

When Kiselev asks again whose plan Yeltsin had chosen, Ilyushin answers: "I would like to say that there is only one leader in the administration, Sergey Aleksandrovich Filatov. I would like to stress that all presidential aides are members of the presidential administration, and that all structures within the administration are working for the president. It is simply that a certain part of it, the president's cabinet as we call it, or his aides, is working in a slightly closer contact with the president than some other structures."

Filatov and Ilyushin both say there were no disagreements between them.

Ilyushin then says: "An episode comes to my mind that occurred about a month ago. Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin invited me to his office and asked: 'Viktor Vasilyevich, is it true that you are preparing a plan for the presidential administration where the president's aides would play the decisive role in all organizational matters?' This question surprised me because there had been many different plans."

Kiselev then asks if the current reorganization of the president's staff meant its expansion. Filatov says that the overall number of people employed in the administration will remain the same, about 2,000, including technical

personnel. Ilyushin adds that the aides' department consisted of 38 people and that the aide for national security issues was soon to have his own staff.

The conversation than switches to President Yeltsin's state of health. Kiselev asks if Yeltsin really had a severe cold or if there were political reasons behind his illness. Ilyushin replies: "I have known Boris Nikolayevich long enough to be able to say that he does not fall ill easily, but if it does happen, it takes him a long time to get over it. I think this is a typical feature of strong people. As for the present situation—yes, he is a bit unwell but of course we must take his age into consideration, and anyway, if all invalids worked as he is working now, things would be moving much faster in Russia." Kiselev says that Yeltsin has a tendency to withdraw from public at times of serious crises and recalled several occasions from the past three years when this happened. Ilyushin disagrees: "True, our president sometimes reserves his judgment but eventually he always states his opinion. And it seems to me that he always does it at the right moment. It is characteristic of Boris Nikolayevich to know when it is the right time to state his views."

Kiselev and Ilyushin then discuss the question whether Yeltsin's personal life should be in the focus of public attention as much as that of U.S. presidents. Ilyushin says it was a foreign tradition alien to Russia and moreover, that Yeltsin disliked being in the public eye. However, they agreed that he ought to be warned that a greater openness was expected of him. Filatov says: "Such matters usually get whipped up before some very serious political events. Apparently, preparations for another period of tension and confrontation are under way. God save us from this," to which Kiselev replies: "Well, in that case a greater openness to the press on the part of the president could knock the trump cards from the hands of his opponents."

Kremlin Expert Views Yeltsin's Decisionmaking

PM0203091594 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 1 Mar 94 p 2

[Interview with Viktor Krivov, leader of Kremlin group of experts, by Stanislav Stremidlovskiy; place and date not given: "Who Gets Poor Marks for Prompting the President?"]

[Text] Quite honestly, I find it hard to recall instances when Russian President Boris Yeltsin has not been rebuked for unexpected decisions which he has discussed with no one. The president adopts an edict, and the interested top officials at once spread their hands: We did not know about this, nobody told us anything. Or: Did he consult with anyone at all?...

Back in the times of the USSR Boris Yeltsin, not yet president, was approached by two people—Igor Vasilyevich Nit and Pavel Alekseyevich Medvedev, professors at Moscow State University—who proposed setting up a group of expert economists. It was then that they reached agreement on the rules: They would always tell Yeltsin the truth, and he would always be ready to listen to them. Some staffers, postgraduates of the Department of Mathematical Methods of Analyzing the Economy at Moscow State University, and scientists from the Academy of Sciences came along with Nit and Medvedev. At first they worked on a purely voluntary basis. But now the group of experts is accommodated in the Kremlin. Last year Igor Nit, its founder, passed away, and Viktor Krivov acts as the group's leader. We put our first question to him.

[Stremidlovskiy] You are an expert. Please assess how Boris Nikolayevich adopts decisions.

[Krivov] Although the president is frequently accused of adopting decisions hurriedly, in actual fact the overwhelming majority of them are carefully worked out. How competent the advisers and specialists to whom the president turns are is another matter. I will point out that Yeltsin endeavors to obtain at least two viewpoints on each question.

[Stremidlovskiy] How capable is Boris Yeltsin of taking on board information which is unpleasant to him?

[Krivov] A difficult question. Of course, the president is a man of character, and he knows how to get angry. And yet he is a man with a very strong will, and so he is able to suppress emotions.

[Stremidlovskiy] Has it ever happened that your opinion and Boris Nikolayevich's opinion on some questions have differed?

[Krivov] Yes. For example, with regard to the "500 Days" program. We were categorically against it in our conclusion and emphasized that this plan did not correspond at all to the country for which it was being written.

[Stremidlovskiy] At what percentage do you estimate your influence over Yeltsin?

[Krivov] There is still a very serious problem here. It was one thing that Igor Nit, our late leader, exerted real influence. We have not yet attained such weight....

[Stremidlovskiy] How frequently does the president consult with your group?

[Krivov] This happens most frequently now through the president's aides—Ilyushin, Korabelshchikov, Sukhanov. Or through political consultants.

[Stremidlovskiy] Many people today believe that the president is dealing less with the government now....

[Krivov] He is doing this deliberately. When Yeltsin headed the government, he dealt with it. Now there is a prime minister whom the president trusts. But control over the course of the reforms is still retained. Every Tuesday there are one-to-two hour meetings between Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin, at which fundamental aspects of the government's work are discussed.

[Stremidlovskiy] Viktor Dmitriyevich, why, in your view, did the president accept the resignations of Gaydar and Fedorov?

[Krivov] In our country the concept "reformer" is like a label. But essentially.... It is important at some stage resolutely to break what is old, while at another time it is time to engage in building.

Whereas in 1990 Yeltsin's victory was linked with the fact that he had geared himself to the enterprise directors, today entrepreneurs have appeared. Therefore it is obvious that the next government must be a government of entrepreneurs. The only entrepreneur whom I know is Chernomyrdin. His presence in the Cabinet of Ministers serves to guarantee the transformations' continuation.

But the actions of members of the previous government frequently resembled the actions of people dropped by parachute into a foreign country.

[Stremidlovskiy] But Chernomyrdin's present cabinet is called a government of "red directors...."

[Krivov] I believe that the directors are no longer the same now. Essentially, each of them has become an entrepreneur. They have large accounts in Western banks, and they seek contracts. But, believe me, more serious problems exist in the economy than "red directors."

[Stremidlovskiy] Which ones?

[Krivov] Owing to the inefficiency of our economy, our prices, particularly those for raw materials, exceed world prices. The saddest thing is that just a few people understand the significance of this problem—only Chernomyrdin.

We will have nothing with which to buy imported consumer goods, which we import now.

We still have six months in which we can use administrative methods to make the railroad carry freight more cheaply, at a loss to itself. To make energy workers also trade at a loss to themselves. But during this time we will prepare the foundations for the structural restructuring of the Russian economy.

[Stremidlovskiy] It turns out that additional loads will be imposed on the sinking budget—from here it is one step to hyperinflation....

[Krivov] Inflation is, of course, a serious matter. But the fact that enterprises are now coming to a halt is no less a problem. Closing our eyes to this trend means getting a seething, mutinous country in a few months' time....

Former Finance Minister Views Yeltsin Message

PM0203111594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Mar 94 p 2

[Article by State Duma Deputy Boris Fedorov: "The Pause in the Reform Process Has Become Protracted. It Is Time To End It"]

[Text] These words in the president's message to the Federal Assembly cannot fail to instill cautious optimism. Indeed, after three months of equivocation and hesitation, it is time to get down to business.

Most inspiring of all was the president's unequivocal stance on inflation, which "is inflicting huge damage on the reform itself and on the quality of the lives of the population and the economy as a whole." "The crisis is insuperable in conditions of unchecked inflation," the president believes. After numerous dubious statements from individual government members and competing pseudoprograms, this is more than timely and should promote the cessation of fruitless discussions.

The president's indication of the need to establish by the end of 1994 a level of inflation of 3-5 percent per month, which certainly hardly squares with the statements of the prime minister and the acting minister of finance, is a real sensation. Still tougher are the president's words concerning the verification of all actions of the authorities to ensure that they carry no inflation risk to the state. Otherwise, the president's direct intervention cannot be ruled out, up to and including the exercise of his constitutional powers.

The president could not have expressed himself more uncompromisingly. Now the question arises: How will the government react? It has twice already postponed its session and more often speaks of inflation priority in terms of 10 or 15-18 percent by the end of the year. For the information of those who are interested: The president's guideline of 3 percent means a 40-percent growth of prices per annum, and the government's guideline, even at 10 percent (which is improbable), represents a more than threefold increase of prices. The difference is collossal. How are these incompatible guidelines to be squared?

Inflation is a fundamental issue of reform. In order to crush it, political will and decisive actions to reduce expenditure are necessary. At the moment we are being offered an extremely dubious budget deficit of 50 trillion rubles [R], R19 trillion of which is proposed to be funded from external sources. I will not say any more about the budget's inflated tax revenue, but who can seriously expect to receive more than $10 billion from abroad? Or as much as R4.5 trillion in revenue through issuing securities? You can dress up the figures as much as you like, but not to that extent. Be sensible.

Two months have passed, and all the Central Bank's credits for the first quarter have already been spent. On what legal basis will expenditure in March rest? When will the budget be presented to parliament, and how quickly will it be possible to adjust it to suit the president's wishes? In its current form, even if it is accepted as correct, it does not correspond even to inflation of 10 percent per month. Either the government will take decisive measures, or it will act against the president.

Inflation can and should be stopped quickly. The investment process should be stimulated, and public savings encouraged. For this, political will and a ruthless battle against mismanagement, corruption, and incompetence are needed. People are needed who are capable of making decisions, accepting responsibility, and achieving results, and not simply beating their chests and saying: "We will never retreat."

It is time to stop putting up with chameleons and lickspittles who sell their convictions with every new gust of the political wind. Meanwhile, they continue to drive out original thinkers and efficient people from the organs of power on ridiculous pretexts. The latest example is Kupriyanovskiy, chief of administration in the president's administration.... Of course, one man does not decide everything. But it is individual people in their sum who determine policy. The composition of the government is mirrored in policy. Today it is not clear who can, and who conscientiously will, implement the line denoted by the president.

I do not agree with the description of the president's message as a party congress speech. Read the text carefully, and everything will become clear. The message contains a host of specific ideas on investments, payments, the standard of living, and agrarian and industrial policy. Quite a lot is said about the Central Bank, which is to be transformed into a federal reserve system, and about relations between the regions and the center.

Most importantly of all, the message gives an objective analysis of the situation and the progress of reform in the last two-and-a-half years. There are many references to specific mistakes, inconsistency, and economic policy becoming dependent on political confrontation. The government's failures are repeatedly indicated, and the possibility of decisive intervention by the president is unambiguously hinted.

It is also highly important that not one word in the president's message supported a shift in economic policy, the talk of the "end of economic romanticism," or a transition to certain "nonmonetarist methods" in the struggle with the stop-start nature of inflation. It is clearly stated: The course is to be the same as before, but it must be more consistent, considered, and professional.

Now, Boris Nikolayevich, specific actions are expected from you and the prime minister. It is the government's duty to provide specific calculations of economic policy and of the guidelines for the year, including on inflation, the standard of living, and other highly important socioeconomic indicators, so that at the beginning of next year it can be said that everything possible has been done for the revival of Russia.

A few days remain until the government session. The pause in the reform process has become protracted. It is time to end it, and it is possible to end it.

Yeltsin Appoints Livshits To Head Team of Experts

LD0203091694 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Boris Yeltsin issued an instruction today, appointing Aleksandr Yakovlevich Livshits head of the group of experts for the president of the Russian Federation.

The same documents instruct Livshits to draft and submit to the president within one month a new statute on the group of experts. This was announced today by the press service of the head of state.

Chernomyrdin Returns to Duty After Illness

LD0203115994 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1100 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Viktor Chernomyrdin returned to his duties as prime minister today after a week-long absence due to illness, Valentin Grishin [name as heard], first deputy head of the Russian Government's press service, has announced.

Viktor Chernomyrdin is today preparing for tomorrow's government sitting, which is to examine the draft budget of the Russian Federation for this year, and also for an expanded government sitting scheduled for 4 March.

A traditional weekly working meeting with Boris Yeltsin is scheduled for 1400, after which talks will be held with Uzbekistan's President Islam Karimov, followed by the signing of a package of Russian-Uzbek documents.

TV Official Views Ostankino's Future

PM0103130194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Feb 94 First Edition p 2

[Interview with Valentin Lazutkin, first deputy leader of the Russian Federal Service for Television and Radio Broadcasting, by Anatoliy Vystorobets; place and date not given: "State Television Is To Be"]

[Text] In his address to deputies of the Russian parliament, Russian President B.N. Yeltsin stated that the television channel whose influence extends to the CIS countries and to several East European countries should remain state-owned. The name of the channel was not given. We approached Valentin Lazutkin, first deputy leader of the Russian Federal Service for Television and Radio Broadcasting, asking him to clarify the issue in question.

[Lazutkin] I welcomed this statement by Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin with great enthusiasm and hope. Finally, a real opportunity emerges to resolve in a dignified and coherent manner the questions of preserving and consolidating the positions of Russian national television.

Ostankino's first channel is a button which is hotter than the nuclear button. In my opinion, the president's address to deputies evinced an understanding of this fact and an awareness of high responsibility. The first channel is working for the long term, for the life and development of the CIS countries and the unification of their economic, information, and cultural areas.

[Vystorobets] At the same time Ostankino's corridors are awash with rumors about the company's imminent flotation.

[Lazutkin] I would not call the idea of floating Ostankino a brilliant one. There are more intentions here than

realistically calculated possibilities. At any rate, I do not know of a single existing model of flotation capable of satisfying the civic and public requirement for a national television channel and ensuring its high-quality and uninterrupted operation.

And when all is said and done, the debate over the flotation of the federal channel is contrived and artificial. But it is infectious and dangerous. Imagine, if someone had the idea of floating missile complexes or tank troops. Ridiculous! But the strategic significance of federal television as the most powerful factor in Russia's information and cultural influence is immeasurable.

[Vystorobets] Does this mean that the president's address reflected certain views held by the leadership of the Russian Federal Service for Television and Radio Broadcasting?

[Lazutkin] I am happy that our views coincide.

[Vystorobets] Don't you consider the existence in Russia of two state television and radio broadcasting companies as strange?

[Lazutkin] When I speak of the opportunity for a coherent and dignified resolution of the questions of Russian state television, I primarily have this problem in mind. Its solution is quite simple, and, most importantly, expedient. The possibility for the normal development of federalwide television and radio broadcasting, for the normal function of the 90-plus regional state television broadcasting companies will thereby be attained.

Military & Space Issues

Grachev Issues Order on Army Recruitment

LD0103164694 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1930 GMT 28 Feb 94

[From the "Radio Slavyanka" program of the Russian Defense Ministry]

[Text] In accordance with an edict by the Russian president, Russian Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev has signed an order on recruitment for contract military service in 1994. The document envisages an increase in the number of contractors in the armed forces by 150,000 servicemen. For example, it is expected that 90,000 contractors will be recruited by the ground troops, 10,000 each by the navy and the airborne troops and 5,000 each by the airforce and the air defense forces.

Research Satellite Launched From Plesetsk Pad

LD0203062894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0445 GMT 2 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Veronika Romanenkova]

[Text] Plesetsk (Arkhangelsk Oblast), 2 Mar—The automatic universal orbital station "KoronaS-I" was launched from the Plesetsk cosmodrome toward the sun by Russian Federation Military Space Forces at 0625 Moscow standard time. This satellite will help scientists conduct studies of the sun.

Federal Assembly

State Duma Issues Statement on Amnesty Memorandum

LD0103182094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1710 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] [No dateline as received]—The State Duma has adopted a statement on a memorandum:

STATEMENT of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation Regarding the Adoption of the Memorandum on Accord and Decisions on the Amnesty

On 23 February 1994, after discussing the legislative initiative of the Russian Federation president on the declaration of amnesty in connection with the adoption of the Russian Federation Constitution, the State Duma adopted a package of documents which are inseparably linked among themselves: "The Memorandum on accord;" the decision "On the declaration of amnesty in connection with the adoption of the Constitution of the Russian Federation;" "On the procedure for implementing the decision 'On the declaration of amnesty in connection with the adoption of the Constitution of the Russian Federation;'" "On the declaration of political and economic amnesty;" and on recognition of the the decision of the State Duma "On confirmation of the membership of the commission to investigate the events from 21 September to 4 October 1993" of 16 February 1994, which is no longer valid.

The adoption of these decisions has been dictated by the firm conviction that it is impossible to extricate Russia from the nationwide crisis without an amnesty for all those who participated in the well known events of 1991 and 1993, and it is impossible without stable civil peace. During discussion of the issue and through the joint efforts of the absolute majority of the State Duma deputies, a formula has been found for social reconciliation and for achieving nationwide accord. The basis of the formula is formed by a striving for constructive cooperation with the president of the Russian Federation, with the Government of the Russian Federation, and with all power structures and political forces, for the sake of consolidating society, and toward an understanding of the great responsibility for the revival of Russian statehood, and for the construction of a new Russia.

The Council of the State Duma Council believes that the decisions on amnesty offers thousands of Russians who have regained their freedom the chance to become actively involved in the creative work of all constructive social forces for the benefit of the Fatherland. However, if any of them lacks the common sense, the heart, or desire to take the road of accord, the State Duma, in conformity with the spirit and letter of the decisions adopted, will find an opportunity, jointly with the president of the Russian

Federation, to take measures which do not allow the situation within society to be destabilized. The State Duma is prepared to examine constructive proposals for a mechanism to implement the resolutions stated, and also to examine a draft memorandum, agreed with other bodies of state power, on the responsibility of state institutions and politicians to preserve civil peace and public order in Russia.

[Dated] Moscow, 28 February 1994

Rybkin on Talks With Yeltsin, Need for Accord

LD0103144294

[Editorial Report] Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian at 1317 GMT on 1 March carries a four and a half minute report on talks Russian President Boris Yeltsin held today with Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko and State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin. The latter held a news conference afterwards.

The conference was brief and consisted largely of a statement that the recent State Duma amnesty decision reflected a spirit of conciliation between the authorities and various political forces. "If necessary, probably in the near future, the Duma will also examine a memorandum on the responsibility of state institutions and politicians for preserving civic calm in Russia," he said.

Regarding his meeting with Yeltsin, Rybkin said: "I won't hide the fact we spoke about the amnesty. And I drew the president's attention to the fact that some people are lifting the resolutions out of their context within the whole package of documents and giving a somewhat loose interpretation to parts of them.

"I drew his attention to the fact that in principle it was a memorandum of accord that was adopted above all else. And this was supported by an absolute majority of deputies. The memorandum of accord says that in the coming two or three months we should hold round-table talks to resolve many issues that are of vital importance to Russia: political, economic, nationalism, and social issues. And we should find a solution to many problems, especially as during the past weeks the approaches to this have been clearly defined by common effort.

"In the final analysis, all these agreements should lead to an accord of civic peace, national conciliation, and close cooperation between the authorities.

"The first young shoots of this cooperation and conciliation are there, but they need to be lovingly nurtured and strengthened. That's the first thing. Furthermore, we counted on the amnesty resolutions being implemented in full compliance with the procedure for conciliation, which was set out in detail in the package of resolutions.

"And if anyone thinks that the authorities acted inconsistently, perhaps a little hastily, then I say this: Close cooperation does not simply happen. It comes about from hard work day-in and day-out.

"These detailed stories about not being in time, hurrying with a letter, not getting an answer are, I think—how shall I say this—are just drawing the public's attention to goings-on in entourages.

"The processes of finding accord in Russia are indeed complex and difficult for us."

Rybkin also said at the news conference that he thought the conduct of the procuracy and Procurator General Kazannik's resignation somewhat hasty.

Rybkin Warns Coup Plotters Against Destabilization

LD0103140694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1315 GMT 1 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondents Pavel Kuznetsov and Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 1 March—The Council of the State Duma believes that the amnesty decision provides thousands of Russians who have newly acquired freedom to become actively involved in the creative work of all constructive public forces for the benefit of the country, stated Ivan Rybkin, who held a press conference in the State Duma today.

He read out a statement by the chamber's Council adopted yesterday. The statement says that if any of those amnestied "lacks the brains, common sense, heart, or desire to take the path of accord, the State Duma, in accordance with the spirit and letter of the decisions adopted and together with the president, will find an opportunity to take measures to prevent the situation in the country being destabilized."

Ivan Rybkin underlined that the State Duma is ready to study constructive proposals for a mechanism to implement the amnesty resolutions adopted by the Chamber, as well as to study a draft of a memorandum agreed with other bodies of state power about the responsibility of government institutions and politicians to preserve civil peace and public order in Russia.

The chairman of the State Duma said that the decisions on the amnesty were dictated by a strong conviction that Russia cannot be saved from a national crisis without an amnesty for all the participants of the notorious events in 1991 and 1993, just as it is impossible to achieve this without a stable civil peace. He underlined that during a debate of the amnesty question at a session of the chamber, the absolute majority of deputies jointly reached a formula for a achieving civil peace and national accord. It is based on a constructive cooperation with the president, all power

structures, and political forces and is aimed at strengthening society and understanding the great responsibility for the rebirth of statehood and the creation of a new Russia.

Rybkin To Quiz Amnestied Opposition in Parliament

MK0103124094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 1 Mar 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Amnestied Opposition Members Invited to State Duma"]

[Text] Andrey Dunayev, Russia's former internal affairs minister, was invited on Monday [28 February] to parliament by the lower chamber's speaker Ivan Rybkin. Dunayev briefed parliamentary journalists on this upon arriving at the State Duma building. As was explained by Viktor Ilyukhin, head of the parliamentary committee for security, the Monday session of the State Duma discussed inviting to parliament the former opposition leaders subject to amnesty, to discuss with them the situation and their actions in the future.

International Affairs

Ministry Rejects Declaration on Russian Bases

WS0103173194 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Statement issued by the Defense Ministry Press Service in Kiev; date not given]

[Text] Some mass media have reported on a declaration made on 26 February by Anatoliy Lupynis, leader of the Ukrainian National Assembly [UNA], at a meeting of Kiev intellectuals. In particular, the declaration pointed out that the Ukrainian Defense Ministry had allegedly drafted a project to be discussed by the Ukrainian and Russian presidents. The project provides for the building of Russian military bases in Ukraine. According to Lupynis, the Ukrainian Defense Ministry had suggested that Russian laws be applied on the territories of those bases.

The Ukrainian Defense Ministry Press Service points out that the information provided by Mr. Lupynis regarding the possibility of locating Russian military facilities on the territory of our state is unsubstantiated. Such actions would contradict Ukraine's current laws, and allegations that the Defense Ministry either prepared or discussed a similar project are groundless.

Unfortunately, under the conditions of the current harsh political contests, some politicians are trying to gain political capital at all costs, even by defaming the Armed Forces. The declaration by the UNA leader is proof of this.

Clinton Said To Advise Kravchuk on New Premier

LD0103180994 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1458 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Kiev—A UNIAN correspondent has learned from informal sources on 1 March that President of Ukraine Leonid Kravchuk received a letter from U.S. President Bill Clinton recommending that Minister of Economy Roman Shpek be appointed Ukraine's new prime minister. Observers from government circles connect the American President's inclination toward Roman Shpek with the success of the Ukrainian Government delegation's negotiations in Washington at the end of January 1994. UNIAN was unable to obtain official confirmation of this report by the press service of the president and the Cabinet of Ministers.

Kravchuk News Conference on U.S. Visit

LD0103232694 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2010 GMT 1 Mar 94

[News conference by President Leonid Kravchuk for foreign journalists on his visit to the United States in Kiev on 1 March—recorded]

[Text] [Kravchuk] The official visit by the president of Ukraine to the United States will begin on 3 March and will be the second official visit to the United States. I am convinced that after we signed the trilateral agreement in Moscow, this visit will become a turning point in the establishment of relations between Ukraine and the United States. Another thing I would like to emphasize is the fact that the preparation for the visit is taking place in a good atmosphere. All the issues put on the agenda, and all the draft agreements upon which the experts are working, agree with the interests of both Ukraine and the United States.

I attach great importance to this visit, and hope that our plans and forecasts will be accomplished. Now I am ready to answer your questions.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Words indistinct] Radio Liberty Russian service. Esteemed Mr. President, after your statement of 18 February this year [words indistinct] that you believe early presidential elections inexpedient, do you realize that in the eyes of the U.S. Administration and the entire Western community, because the parliament of Ukraine in fact failed to ratify the January agreement, you remain the sole guarantor of its implementation?

[Kravchuk] I will start from the end: I do not think the parliament failed to ratify it. The parliament ratified START-I and made the decision to exchange instruments of ratification, and the parliament lifted its reservations on Paragraph 5 of the Lisbon Protocol, which is interpreted as Ukraine's commitment to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] as a nonnuclear state. Thus, the parliament did not fail in anything, but made an important step forward. Another thing is that the parliament did not ratify the NPT—that is also true.

Second, my statement had to do with the situation that emerged today and that can emerge, according to the forecasts, in April, May, or June. I explained this both in my interview for Radio Liberty and in my interview for our television. I never say everything at once, however; I always leave some room for future clarification. You know that the parliament's decisions on early elections of the parliament and president were made under the pressure of a miners' strike. I agreed that such elections were needed, but I do not agree that it should become customary in the life of the society for elections and re-elections to be held under the pressure of a strike. Agreeing to that sort of thing, one will have to agree that we are not building a civilized or a law-governed society. My participation in an early election would mean that I agree to that. That is why I am saying this to emphasize that I have stood and do stand for a law-governed and civilized state, and I will do my best to ensure that this state is being built in Ukraine. Therefore, the president may agree to any steps required by the situation at hand, but his personal involvement would mean that he agrees, not only theoretically but also practically, with an unlawful situation.

[Rudenko] Larysa Rudenko, SVOBODA newspaper. Mr. President, a body has been set up within the Cabinet of Ministers to deal with clearing up enterprises. Does that mean that large emissions will be launched again? Which enterprises, do you think, need to be saved from bankruptcy?

[Kravchuk] First, those that manufacture products needed for Ukraine must be saved. Also those that manufacture products that can be sold and bring hard currency to Ukraine must be saved. Those that will be of crucial significance in the future structure of Ukraine's economy must be saved. There is no point in saving the rest, which manufacture products that may not be needed in the future and may not be competitive in quality and technological standards. This is a conceptual principle that was also voiced in Russian President Yeltsin's address to the joint session of the Federal Assembly and Duma. He also emphasized that Russia would manufacture products needed for Russia. Taking this into account, I think that Belarus will also manufacture products needed for Belarus which can also be competitive. Taking this into account we must create a market in the CIS instead of crying over broken ties. If we should restore, as some wish, all the ties, we will have to restore the Soviet Union and the entire Soviet economy.

The budget and the decisions made by the Cabinet of Ministers have nothing to do with the emission. They have to do only with those problems that are agreed upon today with the Cabinet of Ministers and the National Bank concerning the granting of appropriate credits to enterprises needed for Ukraine.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President, as far as I understand, the issue of providing Ukraine with guarantees is not in a very good state. Do you think that your visit to the United States can improve the situation in this respect, because we understand this situation has to do with the attitude of the U.S. Administration?

[Kravchuk] I do not think that anything will change on paper regarding the guarantees. The trilateral agreement in Moscow, a document that the three of us signed, ties guarantees to Ukraine's accession to the NPT. That is, the issue of guarantees has been resolved in principle, but the provision of guarantees and putting them in a documented form is tied to Ukraine's accession to the NPT. I do not think this position will be called into question or will be subject to change. Another matter is that we will be able to clarify again conceptually the essence and the nature of guarantees, textually and conceptually. The provision of guarantees, however, I must stress, is tied to Ukraine's accession to the NPT.

[Unidentified correpondent] Will the instruments of ratification be exchanged in Washington, and if not, where? The second question, apart from $350 million, what other aid do you expect from the United States? Third, can you explain to American readers, how can an independent Ukraine that is outside Russia's sphere of interest be within the U.S. sphere of interests?

[Kravchuk] I will have, if nothing changes, a telephone conversation today with U.S. President Bill Clinton, and we will agree upon the issue of exchange of ratification instruments. This needs to be agreed by both sides, not only by Ukraine. The second question on the U.S. aid, specifically the $300 million: With all the importance of $300 million, or even a lesser figure, for Ukraine, I am going to America not for the $300 million, but for the establishment of large-scale economic cooperation. To revive Ukraine's economy on market foundations and for Ukraine to join market structures, including European and world ones, we need billions in funds, powerful investments, an influx of private capital, and others. All this needs establishment of large-scale economic cooperation.

For your third question—it is a rather original one, implying certain complications, both politically and otherwise. Ukraine is a member of the CIS, and as a member of the CIS, it is placed within a political, economic, and legal area determined by the CIS documents. The CIS documents do not preclude any state from joining other structures, in Europe or worldwide, including political ones.

We in Ukraine understand very well that Ukraine, and not only Ukraine, but also other European countries—I mean the European countries of the CIS and the former Warsaw Pact—are today under a certain influence of the Russian policy. The question is, what kind of influence is it? Is that an influence of democratic and market- oriented transformations, or is it an influence which certain political forces in Russia want to impose today? We are in favor of cooperation, partnership, and interaction with Russia. Everybody must understand, however, that Russia will never resign itself to playing a mediocre role in the world. Russia cannot renounce its thousand-year-old history; this would not be understood either by the Russians or by Russian politicians. The question is, how can we prevent the transformation of this concept into an imperial one? Therefore, we cannot set ourselves euphoric goals, to have Russia suddenly renounce its role in the world and in Europe. It is unfeasible. However, we—I mean Ukraine—can and want to give an opportunity to the states of the world to balance out the politics in Europe.

I would even say that we can, given the will and assistance to Ukraine, open the road for democracy to the east, from Europe's old borders. We can also play a certain part in the creation of a [word indistinct] market in Central Europe and further east. Thus, I am talking about a stabilizing role for Ukraine. However, to see that happen, the Western countries must decide whether they can assist Ukraine in this, while Ukraine is ready, because Ukraine currently has no political or conceptual complications in this respect. We all need to assist both Russia and Ukraine, and others, in the development of democratic processes.

[Unidentified correspondent] Do you think the refusal of the Supreme Council to join the NPT will affect the granting of aid to Ukraine by the United States? When do you expect Ukraine to join the NPT? Another question, will you discuss the issue of guaranteeing American investments by Ukraine?

[Kravchuk] I will reply in several theses. The first thesis is that, having ratified Paragraph 5 of the Lisbon Protocol, Ukraine in fact announced its commitment to join the NPT. I will try to convince the American business community, politicians, the President and the public that Ukraine has its peculiarity as a country having nuclear

arms on its territory. The peculiarity is that Ukraine cannot use its nuclear arms and does not pose a potential threat to the United States. Therefore, the main thing is that Ukraine has practically begun to carry out the trilateral agreement signed in Moscow, thus creating favorable conditions for its relations with the United States. That is why there is no need to tie so closely all the documents and relations between Ukraine and the United States with accession to the NPT. Our accession has its specifics, because Ukraine, I stress again, is not a nuclear state. Moreover, everybody understands that even if someone should wish this, Ukraine will not be able any time soon to become a state that produces nuclear arms or has all the components of a nuclear state.

The guarantees for investments will be discussed. We have an agreement called Treaty Between Ukraine and the United States on the Encouragement and Mutual Safeguarding of Investments. This agreement has been fully coordinated and finalized.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Words indistinct] Mr. President, are you worried by the fact that if the election fails to take place in March, the situation can get out of hand and will not be possible to deal with by normal means?

[Kravchuk] Of course I am worried, but I attach greater importance to the economic situation, rather than to the question whether the election will take place or not, although I always stressed that I would like the election to take place at once. Even if the election fails to take place, there is an executive authority, there is a president, there are local power structures, presidential representatives, and councils that perform their functions today, and there will be no great complications. However, the economic situation can be complicated even by the problems involved during the election to the Supreme Council.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President, you emphasized that a priority in your policy toward Washington is the expansion of economic relations with the United States. What can Ukraine offer to the United States, and what would you like to receive from the United States?

[Kravchuk] I would like the United States and the European states to actually settle the issue of quotas for Ukr. inian goods, and then we would have a great deal to offer. This is first. Second, we have a rather powerful Black Sea shipping company, Blasco, but the main cargoes are carried not by our ships, but by ships of third countries. We could do this ourselves and make money. As for the United States, I stress again, I would wish for large-scale economic cooperation, to open the road for private investments, to open the road for investment, genuine trade, scientific, and technical cooperation in all areas. Then we would feel a real boost to economic transformations in Ukraine and to normal cooperation in the economy. I would say this: Ukraine is a young state and does not have a lot of experience. The United States, with its possibilities and experience, could lead Ukraine to the economic market, the scientific market, the technological market, and give us an opportunity to work there, to sell and earn, and to buy.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Words indistinct] Mr. President, can you name all the agreements that are (?prepared for signing in Washington)?

[Kravchuk] The first agreement: Treaty Between Ukraine and the United States of America on the Encouragement and Mutual Safeguarding of Investments; second: Convention Between the Government of the United States and the Government of Ukraine on the Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Tax Evasion in Respect of the Income and Capital Tax; third agreement: Joint Statement on the Main Principles of Cooperation in the Sphere of Agriculture; fourth: Statement of Intent on the Granting of Expertise in the Sphere of Agriculture Between the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Ukraine and the Department of Agriculture of the United States; next, a document on the sphere of competence of the Ukrainian-American Joint Commission for Assistance to the Development of Trade and Investment. The other four agreements are at the stage of coordination. The first is a treaty between the Goods and Credit Corporation of the United States and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture of Ukraine; an agreement between the Governments of Ukraine and the United States on cooperation in the sphere of science and technology. Next, an agreement on protection and conservation of cultural heritage, and a joint statement on cooperation in the sphere of trade and economy. The last two have already been mentioned—a charter and a treaty between the ministries of defense.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Kravchuk] Well, Oksana Baiul is a world champion. I met her, if I recall, with a glass of champagne, and I greeted her as a world champion. Naturally, when I saw it on television, for me it was not just the joy of a human being. It was very important. It was the first time Ukraine appeared as an independent team, it was the first time it won two medals—gold and bronze. Thus, Ukraine makes its appearance as a world power. It is important that it be represented by such young, beautiful, and gentle people as Oksana Baiul.

Advisor Previews U.S. Visit

LD0103163094 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1458 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Kiev—At a regular briefing at Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 1 March, Anton Buteyko, adviser to the president on international issues, outlined the prospects for the visit of the Ukrainian delegation headed by President Leonid Kravchuk to Washington: prospects for cooperation in abolishing nuclear weapons, introducing economic reform, a Ukrainian national currency, broadening American investment in the Ukrainian economy, and so on. "We are talking not about assistance for Ukraine but about the beginning of normal economic relations between the two states," Anton Buteyko said.

He declined to name specific figures concerning U.S. financial participation in Ukrainian economic reforms but stressed that during the visit to the United States of the government delegation headed by Roman Shpek, this

figure was adjusted three times. Anton Buteyko stated that relations between the United States and Ukraine became considerably warmer following the Ukrainian Supreme Council's definitive ratification of START I.

He also did not exclude the possibility that ratification certificates with regard to this treaty will be exchanged during Leonid Kravchuk's visit to the United States. "Our government delegation left 24 specific projects with the Americans for them to consider possible investment in the Ukrainian economy. Above all these are investments in nuclear energy and conversion of the military industrial complex.

Consultations are continuing with regard to the Ukrainian-U.S. charter on cooperation. Anton Buteyko told journalists that if all the formulations are finally agreed upon, it will be signed by the presidents of Ukraine and United States during Leonid Kravchuk's visit.

[Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian at 1500 GMT on 1 Mar 94 adds: "Anton Buteyko, head of the Ukrainian President's Foreign Issues Service, has deemed as an important step toward the development of bilateral Ukrainian-U.S. relations Leonid Kravchuk's official visit to the United States, scheduled for the beginning of March. Speaking at a Foreign Ministry briefing, Buteyko provided information on the program of the visit, pointing out that the latter's primary goal is to outline the major directions for expanding democratic cooperation, and to strengthen the positive trends in the relations between the two countries. Buteyko added that there are plans to sign a Ukrainian-U.S. charter on partnership, friendship, and cooperation that would blueprint interstate cooperation in the immediate future."]

National Affairs

Supreme Council Appeals for Responsibility at Elections

AU0103172294 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 26 Feb 94 p 2

["Appeal by Ukraine's Supreme Council" issued in Kiev on 25 February 1994]

[Text] Esteemed Citizens of Ukraine: Ukraine is now going through difficult times. The economic crisis has not been overcome. The social problems have become extremely acute. In such conditions, when confidence in all branches of power has declined, Ukraine's Supreme Council, at the demand of the people, adopted correct decisions: to hold early elections. First, Supreme Council elections in March, and later, in June, Ukrainian presidential elections and elections to local power structures.

Therefore, Ukraine is at the threshold of new important changes in its political and economic life. We have a possibility to continue transformations in Ukraine in a peaceful way and do this in a manner adopted in the majority of democratic countries of Europe and the world: from elections to elections, to change the parliament and, therefore, also the government; in other words, to introduce changes into the ranks of those who will determine the state's internal and external policy.

However, in order for the peaceful revolutionary transformations in Ukraine to continue, elections to Ukraine's Supreme Council, appointed for 27 March 1994, must be successful.

However, certain facts and statements indicate that not everybody in Ukraine is interested in a successful course of these elections. There is talk of the possibility of some "power vacuum." Some people even openly advocate sabotaging the elections, undermining them.

If the Supreme Council elections do not take place, this will only further intensify the political and economic instability and will lead to a constitutional crisis in Ukraine. However, there will be no crisis of power, since the present Supreme Council will maintain its constitutional powers and will function until March 1995. However, why should we go backwards, if the change in Ukraine's Supreme Council may and must take place on 27 March 1994?

For precisely that reason, Ukraine's Supreme Council appeals to citizens and to all officials and power bodies who are involved in organizing the election campaign, with a request to show high responsibility at this time, which is important for Ukraine. Any actions or statements that may lead to the breakdown of elections or to their sabotage are inadmissible. Nor are any violations of the Law on Elections acceptable.

Ukraine's Supreme Council draws the attention of central, district, and local electoral commissions, the leadership of the State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company, and the state mass media to the need to considerably improve activity aimed at intensifying the pre-election campaign and ensuring objectivity, the comprehensive nature of coverage, and the observance of the rights of candidates for deputies and voters.

Dear fellow citizens, let us use our chance to change the life of every one of us and of the entire society.

Kiev, 25 February 1994

Kravchuk Edict on Reserves, New Call Up

AU0103145194 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 25 Feb 94 p 2

["Ukrainian Presidential Edict on the Transfer of Servicemen to the Reserve and the Next Conscription of Ukrainian Citizens to the Regular Military Service in March-June 1994"]

[Text] In accordance with Ukraine's Law "On the General Military Duty and Military Service," I resolve as follows:

1. To transfer to the reserve from the ranks of Ukraine's Armed Forces, Ukraine's National Guard, Ukraine's Border Troops, Troops of the Internal and Escort Guard of Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ukraine's Civil

Defense Troops, and the Black Sea Fleet in March-June 1994 those servicemen who have completed their military service, with the exception of those servicemen who were drafted in November-December 1992 for the regular service of 18 months.

2. To call up for the regular military service in the ranks of Ukraine's Armed Forces, Ukraine's National Guard, Ukraine's Border Troops, Troops of the Internal and Escort Guard of Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ukraine's Civil Defense Troops, and the Black Sea Fleet in March-June 1994 those Ukrainian male citizens who by the time of their joining military units are 18 years old and have no right to deferment and those citizens of older conscription age who have lost the right to deferment of their conscription to regular military service.

Ukrainian President L. Kravchuk

Kiev, 22 February 1994

Some Conscripts' Tours Extended

AU0103144994 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 25 Feb 94 p 2

["Ukrainian Presidential Edict on Extending Regular Military Service for Those Servicemen, Who Were Called Up During the Fall of 1992" issued in Kiev on 22 Feb]

[Text] In order to ensure the bringing up to strength of Ukraine's Armed Forces at the level of their combat readiness during the period of transition to the two-year service and, in conformity with Article 26 of Ukraine's Law "On the General Military Duty and Military Service," I resolve as follows:

To extend by six months the military service of those servicemen who were drafted for 18 months in November-December 1992 and who serve in Ukraine's Armed Forces, Ukraine's National Guard, Ukraine's Security Service, Ukraine's Border Troops, Troops of the Internal and Escort Guard of Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs, and Ukraine's Civil Defense Troops.

Ukrainian President L. Kravchuk

Kiev, 22 February 1994

Kravchuk Discusses Future of Nuclear Power

LD0103140094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1106 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk believes that "today, atomic power plants can save Ukraine." He declared about this at a meeting with heads of the republic's atomic power plants on Monday.

The president reassured that the problem related to the supply of atomic plants with fuel would be solved in the near term, and in accordance with the tripartite statement between Ukraine, Russia, and United States signed in Moscow. Russia pledged to deliver fuel for atomic power plants in exchange for nuclear warheads.

In Kravchuk's words, currently, the government is solving issues to improve material conditions for the employees of atomic stations. In particular, the income tax for key experts of atomic power stations is to be lowered by 10

.

Kravchuk said that the proposal of atomic power stations' leaders to introduce world prices for power supply should be thoroughly examined. He said that "one should do this very accurately and in a balanced manner so as not to deepen the crisis phenomena in the economy and in the state." In Kravchuk's opinion, the issue of drawing foreign investments into atomic energy "is to be further analyzed and examined."

A presidential decree on urgent measures to develop the atomic energy complex is expected to be issued in the near future.

Nuclear Power Official on Problems Facing Stations

LD0103185594 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1638 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Ukraine's nuclear power stations are under threat: At the microphone is Mayak's Kiev correspondent, Vladimir Sokolov:

[Sokolov] No, it is not radiation danger but financial danger that hangs over all 14 nuclear power sets of the Ukraine. The huge debt for nuclear fuel for them from Russia has practically halted its deliveries and reserves are being used up. At No. 1 set of the South Ukrainian Nuclear Electric Power Station, for instance, its reserves are enough only till mid-May, and at a number of others for little more; and the Ukrainian press is already sounding the alarm about the destiny of the republic's nuclear power overall, even claiming that its nuclear power stations are dying.

Is the situation really so alarming? I asked this question of Nur Rashitovich Nihmatulin, the first deputy chairman of Ukrainian Goskomatom. He explained:

[Begin Nihmatulin recording] The situation in nuclear energy today is rather complex. We have worked fairly successfully in the autumn-winter season, producing up to 42 percent of the electricity throughout Ukraine. This is not because we raised the power at our atomic stations. It is because conventional power was forced to reduce generation of electricity owing to nondelivery of oil and gas. About 30 percent of the capacities were in reserve.

But we are feeling a terrible shortage of deliveries of nuclear fuel. To date, we have not paid for fuel for four sets, and if this situation continues we will be forced to take out of circulation about 4 million kWh of capacity. That is one set at the South Ukrainian, one set at the Zaporozhye, perhaps even a second set at Zaporozhye, and lower the load on the Chernobyl atomic power station.

Today, we consider that it is being resolved positively: There is compensation for the strategic weapons that will be sent off to enterprises in Russia, and on account of that

strategic weaponry fuel is to be supplied for our reactors, and we hope that nuclear power will be alive and we will not have to take out of circulation a single set of a single station. [end recording]

Defense Minister Presents New Air Force Commander

AU0103190694 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 26 Feb 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "No to Rally Passions Within Troops!"]

[Text] Ukraine's minister of defense, Army General V. Radetskyy, visited a garrison stationed in Vinnytsya Oblast.

During the meeting with officers and generals at the headquarters of Ukraine's Air Force, Vitaliy Radetskyy stressed that the merger of the Air Force and Air Defense has been suspended. It is necessary to work on this problem as a promising one. The defense minister presented the new Air Force commander—Lieutenant General Volodymyr Antonets, appointed to the post by a Ukrainian presidential edict.

"We are military people and must fulfill our supreme commander's order," commented the minister upon the changes in the personnel. "Rally passions within troops are inadmissible...."

Radetskyy also met with officers of the command of the 43d Strategic Rocket Troops and stressed once again that Ukraine is a missile and space power, and that even after the program for nuclear disarmament is completed, missile specialists will have to fulfill specific work for the defense of our country.

Crimean President Gets Parties' Support

WS0103164794 Simferopol KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 22 Feb 94 p 1

[Report by I. Ryabchikov: "Parties Are Ready To Help the President"]

[Text] On 19 February, Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov met with leaders of officially registered parties. During their meeting, participants detailed their stances, the attitude toward the program of the president, changes in the Republic, and what assistance they require. The leaders of the parties, including the Party of Crimean Economic Revival and the Ukrainian parties, declared their readiness to promote the implementation of economic reform.

The meeting was held in a constructive atmosphere, stated Agrarian Party Deputy Chairman Mikhail Frolov. We favor social justice for workers of the agricultural sector, the issuing of additional benefits which are necessary for the development of the agricultural sector. In this respect, the stance of the president coincides with ours.

We came with a package of proposals, said Yefim Fiks, chairman of the Party of Social Guarantees, and the president suggested that edicts be drafted by us on the basis of our proposals.

Participants in the meeting spoke of the need to adopt a joint statement of all the political forces of the Republic in support of the president's actions.

When Sergey Nikulin, presidential adviser for relations with parties and public organizations, commented on this meeting, he noted that Yuriy Mechkov asked all the participants to forward proposals for candidates to vacancies in all state bodies. In the opinion of Nikulin, the consolidation will make it possible to create a powerful bloc supporting the course of the president. This will be a new kind of legislature, he stressed.

Crimean Vice Premier 'Cautious' on Issues

AU0203104894 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 26 Feb 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "The Crimean Vice Premier: There Will Be No Miracle"]

[Text] Yevgeniy Saburov, invited by the Crimean president to occupy the post of vice premier, began to study the situation. He is a candidate of economic sciences, full member of the Russian Information Science Academy and of the Russian Academy of Social Sciences. He is 47, was born and grew up in Yalta [Crimea]. In a conversation with journalists, he said that he has his own "team," but is not yet going to change the people in the present Crimean government—he will first look closely at them. He said that there would be no miracle: The Crimea cannot become happy over two days on such a basis as two inflating currencies and severed economic ties. As regards the introduction into circulation of the Russian ruble, an economic union with Russia, Ukraine, and other no less important matters, Ye. Saburov was very cautious in his statements and gave to understand that he does not want any tension in the relations between these states and is going to act exclusively proceeding from interstate agreements.

Saburov Discusses Initial Plans

944K0763A Simferopol KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 24 Feb 94 pp 1-2

[Interview with Ye.F. Saburov, vice premier of the Republic of Crimea, by T. Ryabchikova; place and date not given: " 'We Must Make Crimea Open to All'"]

[Text] Ye.F. Saburov, who has accepted President Yu.A. Meshkov's offer of the vice premiership of the Republic of Crimea, arrived in Crimea the day before yesterday.

Ye.F. Saburov is a candidate of economic sciences and full member of the Academy of Computerization and the Academy of Social Sciences of Russia.

Following graduation from the Mechanico-Mathematical Faculty of Moscow State University, he worked in a number

of research institutes. From August 1990 through April 1991 he was deputy minister of education of Russia, from April through August 1991 he headed the group of economic advisers of the chairman of the Council of Ministers, after this he was deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of economics of Russia, and since January 1992 he has been director of the Government of the Russian Federation's Center for Information and Social Technology.

The day before yesterday, Ye.F. Saburov gave KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA his first interview.

[Ryabchikova] Yevgeniy Fedorovich, first of all, permit me to congratulate you on your arrival on native soil. You are truly a Crimean?

[Saburov] Yes, I am. I was born in Yalta in 1946, Crimea is my home. Following school graduation, I left Yalta for studies in Moscow. I graduated from Moscow State University, married, and stayed on in Moscow. But, naturally, I never lost my connection with Yalta, with the Crimea. My parents live here, my friends are here. And every year, whatever the weather, as they say, I have tried to get to Yalta.

[Ryabchikova] How will your citizenship problem, which greatly excites Ukraine for some reason or other, be decided now?

[Saburov] You can get excited over anything. I do not believe that there is such a person as Ukraine. This is, you know, something out of Ilf and Petrov—when the roadside philosophers sit on the embankment and argue: France wants such and such, Britain wants such and such. There are no such people as France, Britain, Ukraine. There are certain politicians in both Ukraine and Russia to whom confrontation for some personal ends of theirs is profitable. I do not believe that this question is so insurmountable that it cannot be settled by way of compromise in negotiations.

I am altogether a supporter of compromise and believe that compromise is very good, it is better than confrontation. After all, as Makarenko once said, if a Russian intellectual is a stickler for principle and sticks firmly to his positions, in half an hour the whole apartment is forced to take valerian. This is not necessary if a compromise is possible, if accord is possible. I believe that for Ukrainians and Russians the question of dual citizenship is simply a question of a normal life. Five million Ukrainians currently working in the Russian North are Ukraine also.

[Ryabchikova] And, then, you have come home.

[Saburov] Yes, this is truly the case. And it is altogether very strange to say that there is some Russian or Ukrainian economic science.

I would like to give you some facts. What is Russian economic science? It is Yevgeniy Grigoryevich Yasin from Odessa. It is Belkin from Kharkov. It is Grigoriy Alekseyevich Yavlinskiy from Lvov. It is ultimately myself—from Yalta. The policy of such countries as China, which are calling on their compatriots to help their homeland and asking them to return and work, would seem to me absolutely correct, therefore. It is strange to me that the Ukrainian state is not calling to such a brilliant economist as Yuriy Vasilyevich Yaremenko, a Ukrainian, he emphasizes this, but talking about a shortage of personnel here.

When Yu.A. Meshkov made me the offer and this become known, the telephone was ringing off the hook with calls from former Crimeans who live in Moscow and in Russia and who are doctors of economic sciences and very important specialists in particular sectors. They would very much like to come to Crimea and work for the good of their motherland. Does Crimea believe that these are not its sons?

[Ryabchikova] How will you embark on the fulfillment of your duties? Where will you begin?

[Saburov] I would like first of all to clearly determine what I can do and to remove all the exiting disagreements. I repeat: I am a supporter of compromise. This is not weakness but quite a strong position. And it means that I want to have freedom of action at the level I deem necessary. But for this I have to turn to the people of Crimea to learn my fellow countrymen's opinion.

First, people must understand that there will be no miracle. Any person who promises to make Crimea replete and prosperous in two days is a liar. The people must not be fooled.

I can promise only one thing—that I myself and the people whom I bring in will work as hard as they can for the good of Crimea. That we will try to do everything possible in this difficult situation with two inflating currencies and severed connections.

With the strange games of politicians, who do not know what they are doing. I promise to make every effort to overcome the obstacles, which there will be, of course.

I will take as the basis healthy business, primarily Crimean business, but with the attraction of businessmen of Ukraine, Russia, Turkey, France, whoever. I have already received certain offers. Very great interest has been expressed by Spain, for example. The Mediterranean countries are in principle longing to enter the Black Sea, and we must help them do so.

We must make Crimea open to all. Crimea never was and must not be an island fenced off from all countries. It must become a focal point of interests.

It is all this that will help create in Crimea prosperity and well-being and jobs and decent earnings, in a word, a normal life for society.

[Ryabchikova] Yevgeniy Fedorovich, could you name the members of the team you intend to bring from Moscow? And, further: How will you build your relations with the present Council of Ministers?

[Saburov] I believe that the enlistment of quite serious, efficient personnel would be not at all a bad thing for the structure of government of the Republic of Crimea. I have

won the consent of certain people to live and work here, in Crimea. But I will decide later. I need first of all to familiarize myself with the present makeup of the government and to take a look at and scrutinize these people.

And, generally, I am not the sort of person who is inclined to go in for radical reshuffles for the sake of reshuffling. Each person who is currently part of the structure of government of the Republic of Crimea or its cities may count on my assistance, help, and the heartiest cooperation if he is really disposed to work for the good of Crimea. I will change people only if they are unwilling or unable to work or if they reject the proposals pertaining to a reform of the economy of Crimea which I intend to make.

[Ryabchikova] What will your first steps in reform of the economy of Crimea be?

[Saburov] There is a very varied structure of production in Crimea: industrial and agricultural and recreation zones and port installations. The speed of the solution of questions in these sectors will vary also, therefore. I understand what an onerous and difficult task this is, I understand that the economy of Crimea has been reduced to a condition which no longer fits within any economic notions even. This had to have been specially contrived.

But it is easy to fall into the abyss, climbing out of it is not that simple. I anticipate a program of Crimea's emergence from the economic crisis being drawn up in the coming months. It will be quite complex, evidently, and will require complex technical approaches.

This program will be presented for Crimeans' approval. To what end?

First, compiling an intelligent program is only half the battle, because it then needs to be fulfilled.

And, second, approval of a program in this way or the other imposes a responsibility on those who execute it. There is something for which people can be held to account. And in principle a person engaged in state administration (the executive) should be under supervision. For the executive, supervision means not trifling tutelage or immersion in paperwork but verification: whether the charted strategic program is being fulfilled or not.

[Ryabchikova] In consenting to become vice premier of Crimea you familiarized yourself, in all probability, with Yu.A. Meshkov's program and the promises he made to the people. Do you consider these feasible?

[Saburov] I would answer this question this way. For me personally it is perfectly clear that people voted for Meshkov inasmuch as he was, indeed, serious in formulating the question of an alliance with Russia, primarily of an end to the economic stupidities that have been perpetrated here. I believe that we need to tackle all economic matters on a purely professional basis, proceeding only from one consideration: whether things are better for people or worse. An alliance with Russia is extraordinarily important for Crimea.

The question of the ruble zone. Poly-currency conditions, where several currencies are in circulation simultaneously, would seem more attractive to me. Not necessarily the karbovanets and the ruble, what is more, there is the dollar and the mark and everything else. Any economic decision is ambivalent, everything needs to be computed: Is this advantageous or disadvantageous.

I fully understand Yuriy Aleksandrovich, who, of course, proceeded from the fact that being in the ruble zone is better than in the karbovanets zone. But for Crimea the question is now somewhat different: It needs to be understood what it is beneficial for us in Crimea to have as the special conditions. Everything needs to be looked at and computed here.

I would like to make separate mention of relations with Russia. Russia will sign an economic treaty with Crimea if it is duly substantiated, if it does not cause any international obstacles, and if it is beneficial to Russia itself.

We must proceed from the fact that no one will help us. Nor should they! We ourselves need to pull ourselves out of this difficult situation in which we have landed.

It is natural that Russia was and remains the most important and most profitable partner of Crimea, as of all of Ukraine also. That treaties with Russia are possible. And that it is perfectly possible to fulfill the necessary conditions about which I have spoken. It is perfectly possible to have direct relations with Russia. But why only with Russia? We will endeavor to ensure that each enterprise of Crimea might have direct relations with Russian enterprises and with Greek, French, or Swiss enterprises. It is all the same to us—just as long as life becomes somewhat better.

[Ryabchikova] Yevgeniy Fedorovich, what was your family's attitude toward the decision to move to Crimea?

[Saburov] What is my family? My mother lives in Crimea, although she is now in Moscow, it is true, since she has been indisposed. I brought her here because she could not live on her doctor's pension. Having worked, God knows, for so many years, she ultimately found herself destitute. But my mother is longing to return to Crimea, of course, as soon as it gets just a little warmer. My daughters are married, and they will, therefore, be going nowhere, most likely. And my wife was one of the main ones urging me to make this decision.

Truly, I very much want to do what I can here. I very much want to live and work for the good of Crimea and its inhabitants—my fellow countrymen.

Crimea Official on Kiev Economic Talks

944K0764A Simferopol KRYMSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Feb 94 p 1

[Interview with A.R. Franchuk, acting chairman of the Council of Ministers of Crimea, by V. Selivanova, KRYMSKAYA GAZETA correspondent; place and date not given: "Attention and Support Given"]

[Text] As has already been reported, a working group of the Government of Crimea was in Kiev from 15 to 19 February to examine implementation of the instructions of the president of Ukraine in accordance with the results of his meeting with the president of the Republic of Crimea.

Our correspondent asked A.R. Franchuk, the leader of this working group and acting chairman of the Council of Ministers of Crimea, about the outcome of the trip.

[Franchuk] I will begin with the fact that the conference and meeting in Kiev took place in a businesslike and friendly atmosphere and at a high level. We were received by Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine V.N. Shmarov, who had invited to the meeting the ministers of power engineering and electrification, justice, agriculture, and machine-building, the deputy minister of the economy, the chairman of the State Property Fund, the first deputy chairmen of the board of the National Bank, and the managers of state committees and departments of Ukraine. Our working group also comprised ministers, chairmen of state committees, and directors of enterprises and associations. A number of questions that we had prepared for this meeting were discussed and resolved.

In accordance with the findings of our group, on 19 February Ye. L. Zvyahilskyy, acting prime minister of Ukraine, signed a protocol on the conference, conducted under his chairmanship, on issues regarding implementation of instructions on the results of the meeting of the president of Ukraine and the president of the Republic of Crimea. Its first point is the budget. The issue of implementation of the agreement on mutual budgetary relations between the Government of Ukraine and the Republic of Crimea for 1994 was decided positively by the minister of finance of Ukraine, and appropriate instructions were given concerning the procedure for mutual settlements.

[Selivanova] Anatoliy Romanovich, let us consider this question, please, in more detail. What advantages were gained in the formation of the budget?

[Franchuk] In the approval of the budget of Ukraine for 1994, Crimea was left with an income in the amount of 43 percent of the sums received on its territory. The remaining 57 percent was subject to withdrawal for the state budget of Ukraine. Simultaneously, the allocation of subsidies from the state budget of Ukraine to Crimea was planned. It would have been very difficult to acquire them. Now, in line with the results of the trip, all taxes, collections, and mandatory payments received on the territory of the Republic of Crimea (except Sevastopol) will be entered into the Republic of Crimea budget. We, in turn, must pay back 4.3 percent from the budget to an account for general state programs of Ukraine (2.7 trillion karbovantsy). Now, above-plan income revenues will remain in Crimea. And additionally found incomes will not be confiscated for the budget of Ukraine. Hence, there is no longer a need to send money to Kiev and back to Crimea. And what I especially want to note is that an opportunity will present itself to balance the rural and settlement soviets more accurately. The conditions are created for ensuring the timely financing of budget expenditures. Thus, it is necessary to form a budget of Crimea on new principles and approve it at a session of the Supreme Soviet. The main task remains the receipt of a maximum sum of income. But for this, everyone has to work well.

It should be noted that the issue of allocation of resources to pay off last year's debt to Crimea was also resolved.

[Selivanova] How was the debt formed, and what does it amount to?

[Franchuk] The debt was formed as a consequence of an insufficient transfer of resources in 1993 to finance programs for the economic stabilization of Crimea and measures associated with the return of Crimean Tatars and other deported people. The sum is 110 billion karbovantsy, taking today's indexation into account. The Ministry of Finance of Ukraine is obligated to establish before 30 March the sources for paying off the debt and also to resolve the question of allocating $1.5 million for the payment of debts for the acquisition of imported equipment in the first half of the year for the Fiolent Plant.

I would also like to dwell on this very important question. The State Property Fund of Ukraine was instructed to prepare a draft decree of the Cabinet of Ministers by 1 March concerning the transfer to the property of the Republic of Crimea of facilities located on the territory of Crimea that are subject to privatization according to existing legislation of Ukraine.

[Selivanova] It is known that a number of enterprises in the Crimea need currency expenditures. How was this resolved?

[Franchuk] The Ministry of the Economy of Ukraine, on a representation of the Council of Ministers of the Crimea and pertinent ministries and departments, was ordered to prepare a proposal on the inclusion of our individual enterprises on the list of those that have a right to acquire hard currency resources. A period up to 30 March was set for an examination of the question on the priority sale of $4 million for the purchase of spare parts for imported trolleybuses, according to a request of the Council of Ministers of Crimea.

Questions concerning the allocation of additional capital investments for the completion of construction of the most important water supply and sewage facilities of the cities of our republic, Sevastopol's water supply, and also the allocation of additional quotas on capital investments and grants to finance the reconstruction and operation of land reclamation facilities and water management, and others were discussed. There was discussion of ensuring the uninterrupted work of departmental boiler houses of military health centers and rest homes.

[Selivanova] We are on the threshold of spring. What kind of support has been promised for Crimea's agriculture?

[Franchuk] Taking into account the difficult conditions of the past year and the volume of spring sowing work, our republic will be allocated 20,000 tonnes of gas and 30,000 tonnes of diesel fuel in February-May. The requirement for

spare parts and imported agricultural equipment will be satisfied. Mineral fertilizers and spring crop seeds were provided. Other questions were also resolved.

The question of canceling the restrictions for the entry of citizens of Ukraine in Sevastopol was presented for examination.

[Selivanova] Is it possible to draw the conclusion that all the points entered in the conference protocol can realistically be implemented?

[Franchuk] Everything that is defined by the protocol and signed by Ye.L. Zvyahilskyy is realistic and has specific dates for completion in the first half of the year, starting in March. I had a conversation with President of Ukraine L.M. Kravchuk about the aims of the trip of our working group. And despite the difficult situation in Ukraine's economy, we were given attention and support by everyone we met at the very highest level. The ministries and departments of Ukraine jointly with the National Bank of Ukraine and the Council of Ministers of Crimea will have to continue work on implementation of the instructions of the president of Ukraine in accordance with the results of the meeting of the president of Ukraine and the president of the Republic of Crimea.

Belarus

Hryb Urges Economic Union With Russia

WS0203103094 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0400 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Mechyslaw Hryb, new speaker of the Belarusian parliament, has spoken in favor of urgently reestablishing economic ties with former republics of the USSR, in particular, with Russia. In an interview with Moscow PRAVDA, he said that the only way out of the crisis for Belarus leads through an economic union and a single monetary system with Russia.

Parliament Head Hryb Criticizes Press Attacks

WS0103150494 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1300 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Report by Mikhail Rudkowski]

[Excerpts] Today's session of the Supreme Soviet will see the announcement of the results of a roll-call vote on a package of bills related to the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus. One of these issues is the introduction of the post of president as the head of state and executive branch. The official results will be made known at 1800. With regard to the president—who is eligible for this post and how they will be elected—by nationwide elections or by people's deputies in this Oval Room?—the Supreme Soviet should adopt an appropriate law. This extremely important issue concerning presidential elections is now in the hands of the people's deputies. [passage omitted]

Before discussion of the agenda for today's session, the Supreme Soviet was addressed by Chairman Mechyslaw Ivanavich Hryb. Here is an excerpt from his address:

[Begin Hryb recording] For some time now, especially after my election to the post of Supreme Soviet chairman, some media, in particular the papers SVABODA [in Minsk] and IZVESTIYA, sta..ed publishing reports that do not correspond to the facts. These publications compromise me as a man and the chairman of the Supreme Soviet. Esteemed People's Deputies! I want to assure you: It is not a question of my inability to defend my dignity and honor, to obtain justice in a legal way through the courts, and to punish the guilty. By the way, it happened once with regard to the SVABODA newspaper. The question is that I do not have time to bring any action in the courts. Therefore, I am forced to address you, People's Deputies, respected electors, and citizens of the Republic, and assure you that my program and my demands for establishing order and discipline in the Republic, as well as to strengthen the fight against crime are not liked by everyone. However, I assure all citizens of our Republic that I will not retreat from this course. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Parliament Reportedly Approves Presidential Post

LD0103124394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1106 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] According to unofficial information, which INTERFAX has obtained from the Belarusian parliament's Tallying Commission, the required number of votes has been secured for the introduction of the presidential post in this republic.

The Belarusian parliament continues personalized voting on the basic provisions of the draft constitution. The official results will be summed up in the evening of March 1.

The basic provisions of the Belarussian Constitution will be adopted if at least 232 deputies vote for them. The Counting Commission told Interfax that by the end of the morning session, more than 240 deputies had cast their votes in their favor.

Moldova

President Snegur on Nationwide Poll, 14th Army

PM0103113194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Feb 94 p 3

[Interview with President Mircea Snegur by Svetlana Gamova in Chisinau; date not given: "Mircea Snegur: The Question of Unification With Romania Will Not Be Raised"]

[Text] Chisinau—Winter and spring 1994 will be crucial for Moldova. A nationwide poll, scheduled for 6 March, will mark the end of the dispute between the supporters of an independent Moldova and those who want it to join Romania.

Hopes of a revival of the unity of the state, which for three years now has been "divorced" from two of its regions, the Dniester Region and the Gagauz south, are pinned on its results and on the results of the upcoming parliamentary elections. All the talks with these regions have ended in deadlock, foundering on the conditions that Chisinau must provide the regions with guarantees in the event of a change in Moldova's political status.

[Gamova] Mr. President, we know that you do not like sudden movements. But your announcement of a nationwide poll was just such a step. Before it, unification with Romania was talked of as a reality, albeit more or less remote, but the poll and particularly your speech at the congress of citizens, "Our Home is the Republic of Moldova," rule out this possibility. Why did you decide to set out your positions so clearly?

[Snegur] At the very beginning of the democratic transformations, following the 1990 elections, when I started work in the Moldovan parliament, I warned certain representatives of the People's Front that, as far as I was concerned, I would do my utmost to promote the land's prosperity, but I would not raise the question of unification with Romania. It is the first time I have said this, but that is

what happened. In fact, in all the twists and turns of the state's development I have steered both partners and opponents onto a centrist path of solving problems. But recently the opposition set up a council for unification with Romania and started propagandizing this possibility and elevating it to the level of state policy. It was in order to ease the tension in society that I announced the "consultation with the people"—our poll, which, incidentally, does not contradict the constitution.

[Gamova] Does such an overt rejection of the idea of unification with Romania mean a reorientation exclusively toward the CIS?

[Snegur] No. Incidentally, the "consultation with the people" includes a question relating to mutually advantageous links with all countries. We signed the agreement on the formation of an economic union and will sign all the other agreements deriving from this document. We established too many customs barriers, which disrupted links between the parts of what was once a single economic comnplex. As a result Moldova, like the other CIS countries, has suffered enormous losses.

Unless all the documents ensuring the viability of the economic union are signed by the heads of state in the very near future we will be unable to escape from this situation and get back at least to the position we had attained a few years ago.

Of course, we will also be seeking mutually advantageous links with Western countries. But it would be unwise to abandon the Eastern market, with which we have strong links.

[Gamova] Might Moldova eventually join the ruble zone?

[Snegur] There is no need for that. Calculations will certainly be made in relation to the ruble. But the Moldovan leu is doing pretty well. According to the IMF and the donor countries, Moldova is keeping pace with the Baltic countries in carrying out reforms.

[Gamovas] Will the Moldovan leadership's current stance affect relations with Romania?

[Snegur] A recent meeting of the two countries' interministerial commission in Bucharest summed up mutual economic relations and determined the paths of future development. The meeting took place after citizens at the "Our Common Home is the Republic of Moldova" congress in Chisinau had advocated the building of Moldova as an autonomous, independent state. There was no negative reaction on the part of the official authorities.

[Gamova] But the Moldovan leadership's position and your own stance have come under heavy attack in the Romanian press....

[Snegur] But the attack was not at an official level, unless you consider the Romanian Academy of Sciences to be so. The political parties were negative by and large. But the opposition press in Moldova was even more vigorous and more abusive. Our path has been determined. And although the results of the poll have no legal force, they will provide the president with an argument for pursuing with parliament a policy supported by the people.

[Gamova] But what if the People's Front, which is running under new party labels in the elections, gains a majority in parliament? The president will then lose his expected support...

[Snegur] I am hoping for a reasonable majority in parliament. I think we will be able to form a viable new government too. But if things develop the way you suggest, it will be the will of the people.

[Gamova] Will the new parliament be able to resolve the problem of the Dniester Region and the south of the republic?

[Snegur] Yes, I think so. A draft law has been prepared on the status of the southern areas which have a high Gagauz population. It has been scrutinized at the Council of Europe and it suits the Gagauz themselves. The draft will be submitted for discussion at one of the first sittings of the new parliament.

[Gamova] What can the Gagauz realistically expect?

[Snegur] Autonomy within the republic—something along the lines of an autonomous oblast with certain rights, with its own People's Assembly. The head of the entity's administration would be in the Moldovan government.

As for the Dniester Region, we have a good basis for a dialogue on its future status—the CSCE mission's report. Judging by President Yeltsin's letter, Russia also accepts these documents, as mediator in the settlement of the Dniester Region conflict.

Russia's mediation mission began in July 1992, when Boris Yeltsin and I signed the ceasefire agreement. Some 18 months have now elapsed. During that time the joint peacemaking force monitoring the security zone has done a great deal to stabilize the situation. The agreement brokered by Russia and the CSCE on the legal status of the Dniester Region can then be implemented under the observation of guarantors, for example, the existing mechanism of the four—Moldova, Russia, Ukraine, and Romania.

We are prepared to distribute functions between the central and local authorities and grant maximum self-government, down to the creation of their own legislative assembly and their own emblems. The only conditions is that the region should be part of the Republic of Moldova with a common army and common constitution.

[Gamova] Could Moldova have a federal structure?

[Snegur] I do not think there will be any need for that. Particularly if we guarantee the region the right to self-determination in the event of a change of status by Moldova. The problem must be resolved, otherwise the deadlock will continue.

[Gamova] Is agreement with the current Dniester Region leaders possible?

[Snegur] It is difficult, but we will try.

[Gamova] Final question: The 14th Army on the territory of Moldova. The negotiating process is under way, but there is much talk in the republic about the possibility of the creation of a Russian military base, using its facilities....

[Snegur] We insist on the continuation of negotiations on the withdrawal of the 14th Army from Moldova. I have not heard any other official view from the Russian side. It is merely a matter of the date. We are insisting on the middle of this summer. This has not been agreed so far.

Snegur on New Constitution, CIS

LD0103141394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1106 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Moldovan President Mircea Snegur has told INTERFAX that the country's newly-elected parliament is to consider and approve a new constitution which must secure the republic's independence and its development along the road of consolidation and strengthening of contacts with all countries.

"We can only regret about the breaking up of ties on the economic space of the former Soviet Union," he said.

Snegur believes that Moldova is unable to reject the Eastern market.

"We have had a try of following the agreements at Belovezhskaya Pushcha. As a result our economic indices have dropped very low," said Snegur.

He sees the way out of the situation in implemeting the agreement on the formation of an economic union within the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States, which was signed by Moldova.

Snegur has denied speculation saying that Moldova intends to sign, within the CIS, agreements other than economic.

"We take part in integration on the issues that do not infringe our independence," he said.

Speaking about the relationships with Romania, he said: "We have one language, we are brothers and continue integrating economically and culturally, but we are building our independent states."

European Observers 'Satisfied' With Elections

AU0103163494 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1840 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 28/2/1994—The Council of Europe Observation Group is satisfied with the way in which elections in Moldovan Parliament were organized and held, declared the delegation chief Lambert Kelchtermaans at a press-conference today. Though some infringements were detected, they were unlikely to influence the results of first democratic elections based on pluripartisism. The delegation chief mentioned that the observation group visited over 40 voting sections. According to the collected information analyzed by the Council of Europe delegation a final report will be presented to the Bureau of the Assembly of the 32. This report will be the basic element in the adherence of Moldova to the Council of Europe, which Council experts think will last for a longer period. Before the conference Parliament Speaker Petru Lucinschi assured the foreign observers that Moldova will cause no trouble to Europe" and wishes to join Europe with a democratic system and market economy.

NATO Observers on Results

AU0103164094 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1840 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 28/2/1994—Electoral observers from NATO and CSCE held today a press conference. The first pluripartite democratic elections in Moldova were run in "an atmosphere of normality and honesty" and according to the law on elections to parliament, stated from behalf of NATO delegation. The observers visited over 60 polling stations in various Moldova's regions; they noticed some technical and organization deficiencies, mainly caused by the lack of democratic experience in Moldova and this is not a reason to contest the results, says a press release issued by the observers. Lord Lucas said that about 12 percent of left bank population voted while other inhabitants of east Moldova had, though with difficulties, the real possibility to participate in elections. NATO and CSCE observers remarked as "a suggestion for future" the state's obligation to insure equal access to media for all political forces during the electoral campaign.

Party Officials Comment on Results

AU0103163294 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1840 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 28/2/1994—BASA has interviewed representatives of many political formations immediately after the first estimations of the voting have emerged. Valeriu Senic, leader of the Socialist Party of Moldova, declared "a normal thing happened, the voting expresses the population's will. First of all I consider these elections a general rehearsal for the future parliamentary elections, which will be run in an already unitary republic. Together with agrarians we shall constitute a based parliamentary majority, that will first of all solve the problems of the republic's south and east, adherence to CIS, and amendments to the law on languages. In a civilized state, the language is not taught with the cudgel, but with competent teachers, said the interviewed.

Gheorghe Ghimpu, leader of Democratic Party, told BASA: "Those who said long before that the elections will not be democratic were right. I think there have been infringements, frauds. A lesson of yesterday is that Russians have actively participated, while Moldovans were passive. The results of elections can only mean the following: The reaction won in Russia, the reaction also won here. Winners of the elections will federalize the republic,

revise the laws on state language, Latin graphology, etc. We have to recognize that Moldovans neither know what is freedom nor want it."

Victor Popa, representative of the Reform Party, asserted "results of the elections show that the communist ideology is deeply infiltrated in our mentality. These results do not show at all the balance of forces in the society, but as always, any elections leave room for a triumph of paradoxes. Our electorate has voted the past instead of voting the future."

In the opinion of FPCD [Christian Democratic Popular Front] Alliance representative Sergiu Mocanu, "nothing grave happened: communists came back to power." Mocanu thinks the results of elections were influenced by the decree of Snegur on the participation of Dniester population and by the pressure of the executive which forced part of electors vote for agrarians. "We will try to contest the results of elections, both in localities inhabited by Gagaouzians and where Dniestrians voted, where numerous electoral frauds were detected."

PDAM [Democratic Agrarian Party of Moldova] representative Dumitru Diacov stated to BASA "results of the elections display the ratio of forces in the society. We must all understand that electors realized well with whom to go. Despite of the arguments and the electoral noise." In Diacov's opinion, the mass voting for "Edinstvo" denotes a disorder in our political life. "Our Parliamentary majority will first of all solve the most urgent problems: the constitution, the Moldovan east and south and will prepare a package of documents to unleash reform," stressed the PDAM representative.

Parliament To Continue Activity

AU0103164494 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1840 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 28/2/1994—Old parliament's leadership and members of Parliamentary Presidium, total 26 persons, will keep their status and will activate until the day of first session of the newly elected parliament. This first session is planned for March 15th, stated to BASA Pavel Rotaru, from the Parliamentary Press Service. Before February 27th, former MP's should have abandoned their ID's and diplomatic passports. Parliament commissions have formally finished their existence on the eve of elections, but most deputies engaged in commissions are still in offices in the parliament building, said Rotaru. He noted that the future MP's will enjoy the parliament's rooms and services only after the Central Electoral Commission confirm their status and their mandates are validated during first sessions of the new parliament.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Says Russia 'Priority Partner'

PM0103143794 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Feb 94 p 2

[Anatoliy Ladin report: "Russia and Kazakhstan Remain Partners. Nursultan Nazarbayev Defended Russia During His Recent Visit to America"]

[Text] Almaty—At a news conference held in Almaty, Nursultan Nazarbayev returned several times to the subject of his personal attitude toward Kazakhstani-Russian ties. In his opinion, relations between the two states are developing normally at present, and no actions aimed at infringing Russian interests were undertaken during his visit to the United States.

The president of Kazakhstan confirmed that during his U.S. visit, many people asked about the situation in Russia. He tried to convince his partners in the talks that they should gamble not on the specific persons carrying out the economic reforms in Russia but on the actual process of democratic and economic transformations. He raised objections with those interlocutors in America who called the Chernomyrdin government conservative; according to Nazarbayev, he was able to demonstrate why he disagreed by using as a basis his own personal experience of relations with the Russian head of government.

The president illumined in detail the problem connected with the upcoming removal of the nuclear warheads of strategic missiles from Kazakhstani territory.

Kazakhstan is claiming 10 percent of the estimated value of all the uranium of the missiles which are on the territory of four CIS states and which are subject to reduction.

On the whole, Nursultan Nazarbayev advocated lending viability to the CIS states' economic union as quickly as possible. He said that Russia remains Kazakhstan's priority partner. At the same it must be taken into account that "it takes two to tango," the president emphasized figuratively. Therefore the desire for cooperation must be mutual.

Last Strategic Bombers Leave Kazakhstan

LD0103221394 Moscow Radio Moscow in Russian to Tajikistan 1700 GMT 1 Mar 94

[From the "Radio Slavyanka" program of the Russian Defense Ministry]

[Text] In accordance with the obligations undertaken by Russia within its rights as legal successor to the former USSR, the last four of 40 TU-95 MS strategic missile-carrying aircraft based near Semipalatinsk have left Kazakhstan. Some old-model TU-95 aircraft remain in Kazakhstan that experts believe no longer represent a real threat to anyone.

Tajikistan

CIS Troops To Remain Until Dec 1994

LD2802151794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1430 GMT 28 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow February 28 TASS—CIS peace-keeping forces will stay in Tajikistan until December 31, 1994, Viktor Samsonov, chief coordinator of CIS military cooperation, said.

Speaking at a news conference in Moscow on Monday, Samsonov said that the troops will be reinforced by additional contingents of CIS states which are providing peace-keeping assistance to the republic under inter-state agreements.

The decision to this effect was adopted by the CIS defence ministers at their two-day meeting in Moscow last week.

Samsonov stressed that the decision on measures to stabilise the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border adopted by the defence ministers will be transformed into a law at the upcoming session of the CIS heads of state.

Under the existing agreements, Kyrgyzstan will reinforce its contingent in Tajikistan and Kazakhstan will send in a battalion in the near future.

If Afghan mujahideen and the Tajik opposition launch a large-scale offensive on the border in the spring or summer, "the available peace-keeping troops will not be enough to repel it," Samsonov said.

Asked about disagreements between the military delegations of CIS states, Samsonov said that the decision on the stabilisation of the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border was signed by all delegations, except Belarus.

Rakhmanov Receives Russian Deputy Foreign Minister

LD0103144594 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Imamali Rakhmanov, head of state and chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Tajikistan, has just received Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Adamishin. The meeting was held in a friendly atmosphere. At the meeting it was pointed out that economic, political, and cultural relations between the states of Tajikistan and Russia will be further developed.

Armenia

Karabakh Warns on Azeri Cease-Fire Violation

NC0103135994 Yerevan SNARK in English 1045 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Stepanakert, March 1 (SNARK)—The Azerbaijani side violated the armistice on cease-fire from 00:00, 1st of March. The armistice was achieved through the mediation of the Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev.

The Press-Service of the Karabakh Defense Army told SNARK last night and this morning the positions of the Karabakh troops at some parts of the front, in particular, at the northern Martuninskiy region, were under the artillery shellings. The Karabakh side suffers 3 soldiers wounded. Following the terms of the armistice treaty Karabakh defenders made no retaliative actions.

In connection with the action Seyran Oganyan, the Head of the Staff of the Karabakh Defense Army, made a declaration which says that the Karabakh side will have to undertake the adequate measures if Azeris go on with the armistice violations.

Foreign Minister Protests Azeri Air Raids

NC0103203894 Yerevan SNARK in English 1411 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Yerevan, March 1 (SNARK)—During a period of last 6 months Azerbaijani military aircraft more than ten times entered air space of Armenia and "layed eggs" in the border adjusting regions, the letter of Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan sent to Beniamino Andreata, an acting Chairman of the CSCE, and Manfred Woerner, NATO General Secretary.

Document also says that during a period of 1993 Azerbaijani aircraft did more than 50 military air-raids to the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Mr. Papazyan attracts the attention of the CSCE and NATO leadership to the fact that Azerbaijan doesn't follow his obligations mentioned in the Treaty of Conventional Armaments in Europe. In particular, making a 1992-1993 annual report Azerbaijan deviated from supplying with the information on military airdromes where the military air-raids are undertaking from. A considerable lack of correspondence on the existence, reduction of the warplanes quantity and their losses is typical for the informational documents.

Russian Troops' Status Still Not Approved

NC0103204694 Yerevan SNARK in English 1404 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Yerevan, March 1. (SNARK)—Armenian Liberal Democratic Party called for faster ratification of agreement on legal status of Russian troops in Armenia, signed two years ago.

Parliamentary representative of this party Petros Katsakhyan reminded the deputies that the Supreme Council of Russian Federation has already ratified this document exactly a year ago.

According to the information made known by the Armenian financial minister Levon Barkhudaryan, nearly 8 billion rubles were allocated in the republican state budget to support the Russian armed contingent.

Azerbaijan

Baku Accused of Cease-Fire Violation

LD0103155694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1412 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Armenian forces in Nagorno-Karabakh came under bombardment from Azeri troops both last night and Tuesday morning despite the recent ceasefire agreement Stepanakert and Baku had signed with mediation from Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev. The agreement is effective from March 1.

Three Armenian soldiers were wounded as the Azeri army mounted artillery fire in the north of the Martuniskiy Region, the press office of the Karabakh Defense Forces told Interfax. The Azeri fire was not returned because of the ceasefire agreement, it said.

However, Armenian forces reserve the right to retaliate if Azerbaijan continues to violate the agreement, Chief of Staff of Karabakh Forces Seiran Oganian said.

Aliyev Talks With Minsk Group Chairman

NC0103190294 Baku AZERTAC in English 1640 GMT 1 Mar 94

[All punctuation as received]

[Text] Baku, March 1 (AZERTAC)—We still associate the possible resolution of the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh with the Minsk Group /CSCE/ and convinced that this organization is able to carry out its mission, though it has not been successful in its work, President Aliyev said at his todays meeting with Jan Eliasson, the chairman of Minsk conference of the CSCE.

The president pointed out that the Azerbaijani party considered that the conflict should not be settled by means of force because continuation of war would be meaningless. We stand for cease-fire and cessation of hostilities providing territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, inviolability of its borders and safety of its residents is guaranteed, President Aliyev said.

Mr. Jan Eliasson stressed that it was very important for all the parties concerned to comprehend that there is no alternative to peaceful resolution of the conflict.

Mr. Eliasson informed that he had had a round of talks in Moscow and Ankara, met with representatives of the countries-members of the Minsk Group, thus made great spade-work before he visited the region. Ceasefire - the

first step on the road to peaceful resolution of the conflict was on the agenda of Russian talks. According to Mr. Jan Eliasson, proceeding from the Minsk Groups step by step method of peaceful resolution of the conflict the organization should know its following steps. These are withdrawal of Armenian army from occupied areas, restoration of communications, and a return of refugees to their homes. Both parties can hold negotiations on political settlement of the conflict after solving these problems.

Mr. Eliasson suggested to stop hostilities in occasion of renewal of the Minsk Groups efforts on peaceful resolution of the conflict. I hope we can achieve concord about cease-fire, he said. At the same time he expressed his comprehension that Azerbaijani party must be sure that the opposing party will not take advantage of lull and start a new offensive.

The chairman of the Minsk Group stressed that the CSCE is ready to help Azerbaijan to solve humanitarian problems raising as a result of the conflict and to mobilize strength of the world community to do that.

It is expected that Mr. Jan Eliasson will visit the zone of hostilities and the districts where refugees have being placed.

Aliyev Holds Talks With Yeltsin Envoy

NC0103190894 Baku AZERTAC in English 1640 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Baku, March 1 (AZERTAC)—Vladimir Kazimirov, the Russian presidents personal representative charged to negotiate on peaceful resolution of the Karabakh conflict, arrived to Baku last night. According to the confidential sources, President Aliyev and the Russian diplomat had one-hour in camera talk. Today Vladimir Kazimirov also met with Azerbaijani Minister of Defence Mamedrafi Mamedov. There is no information about subject of the talks. Apparently the matters of realization of a protocol, which had been recently signed in Moscow, were discussed during the talks. The protocol provides cessation of hostilities in the zone of the conflict.

Aliyev Holds News Conference on UK Visit

NC0103192794 Baku Radio Baku International Service in Azeri 1300 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] A press conference has been held in the Azerbaijan Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the outcome of President Geydar Aliyev's visit to Britain. The press conference was held for foreign and local journalists. President Aliyev said that several important documents were signed during his visit and that the agreements between Azerbaijan and Britain will create a basis for the improvement of relations between the two countries. President Aliyev also stressed that opportunities have been established for that purpose.

It was noted that the documents that were signed and the agreements that were concluded in Britain will contribute to the consolidation of Azerbaijan's statehood.

It was also noted that Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov is currently visiting Bonn. The itinerary for his visit includes talks with Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, a visit to the German Bundestag, and talks with Minister of Economic Cooperation Carl-Dieter Spranger and representatives of Germany's business circles.

U.S. Citizen, Others Detained for Illegal Crossing

NC0203071594 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] The National Security Ministry has reported that four border violators were detained near Pusyan in Sharur Rayon in Nakhichevan. Three of them were citizens of Azerbaijan and one was Iranian. An abandoned tractor and four tons of aluminum were discovered in the same locality.

Four smugglers trying to cross into Iran from Azerbaijan's Lerikskiy Rayon were detained. During the search, some 60 bottles of arak [an alcoholic beverage] were confiscated from them.

Two Russian citizens are in custody on the Baku-Astara train for not possessing proper identification. During a search at the Sholkhulu checkpoint, one Russian citizen and one U.S. citizen were taken into custody and transferred to Baku for violating the border passport regulations.

The traffic police found two tons of gasoline in a Kamaz bus driven by Georgian citizen Serim Kochetidza, who was taking it out of our Republic illegally. The Traffic Police Department informed the AZERTAC correspondent that the smugglers' attempts in recent days to take out 11 tons of diesel fuel, five tons of iron [word indistinct] and metal pipes, and 1.2 tons of sugar have been frustrated. An investigation has been opened into these cases.

News Agency Says Police Prevent Normal Work

NC0203114194 Baku TURAN in English 1119 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Baku (March 1) TURAN—As was reported earlier, local police blockaded the building of Baku-based TURAN NEWS AGENCY.

Due to this fact, our agency is unable to function. The building is searched without the sanctions of the Procurator. The police does not explain the reasons of their activities.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Azerbaijan, Procurator's Office and President's staff of the Republic give no details about present situation and refuse to answer the question of the journalists. Presently we use several additional sources to inform you about the situation.

Paper Appeals Subjection to 'Persecution'

NC0203115094 Baku TURAN in English 1119 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Baku (March 1) TURAN—"Recently the pressure on the democracy and freedom of speech in Azerbaijan

intensified", says distributed today appeal of Baku's newspaper "AZADLYG." The document reports that newspaper "AZADLYG" has been openly subjecting to persecution for the last time.

During the past days the police of Baku's Sabail region has been repeatedly searching the building of the editing house of the newspaper. The policemen armed with machine guns encircled the building.

The representatives of the police and the authorities gave no details of their activities to the journalists.

The police seized a room in the editing house of the newspaper by force. Today's issue of "AZADLYG" is banned by the political censorship.

This morning the employees of located there organizations "AZADLYG", and TURAN NEWS AGENCY were not allowed to enter the building.

In this connection "AZADLYG" newspaper addressed an appeal to the world community and Baku-based foreign Embassies. It says that basic democratic freedoms are brutally violated in Azerbaijan.

"We hope that World Democratic Institutions will express their attitude towards present situation in Azerbaijan", stresses this document.

It should be stressed that independent "AZADLYG" newspaper has the biggest circulation in Azerbaijan.

Further on AZADLYG, TURAN Troubles

NC0203115994 Baku TURAN in English 1119 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Baku (March 1) TURAN—Today at 17.00 the police left the building of the editorial office where the leading opposition newspaper of Azerbaijan, AZADLYG, is located on Khagani 33 Street.

Also located in that building are the independent TURAN NEWS AGENCY, Democracy Development Fund, Cultural Fund "Yurd", the Independent Centre for Economic and Political Researches and the International Centre "Polyglot".

During the past three days the police, armed with machine guns, as well as employees of the Procurator's Office of the republic, continued their searches of offices in the building, and checked people entering and exiting the building.

Today the journalists of "AZADLYG" and TURAN NEWS AGENCY held a joint press conference and provided details about the arbitrary lawlessness of the police to foreign diplomats and journalists.

Having found nothing in the rooms and basements of the building, the police and the employees of the Procurator's office were compelled to leave. Earlier they had said that "journalists hid weapons and ammunition in the rooms." But having found nothing, the policemen seized several issues of TURAN daily news reports and several issues of independent newspaper, CHESHME ("MOSAIC").

Due to the lawlessness by the police, the employees of Turan news agency and the remaining organizations located in the building were unable to work for the entire day.

Georgia

Parliament Votes To Join CIS Charter

LD0103174494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1712 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] [no dateline as received] At its evening session today the Georgian parliament adopted a resolution that the Republic of Georgia should join the CIS charter. There were 125 parliamentarians voting for this decision, 64 against, 4 abstained, and 3 deputies did not take part in the voting.

Eduard Shevardnadze, head of the Georgian state who made a speech during the stormy debate on the question of ratification, stressed that Georgia "has no other choice and that this has already become obvious during the events in Abkhazia."

Shevardnadze Address on Joining CIS

LD0103181394 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1414 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Address to Supreme Council session by Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze in Tbilisi; broadcast in progress—live]

[Excerpts] ... regulations which are of vital importance for Georgia. Batoni [Georgian polite form of address for males] Givi Lominadze started to enumerate them but then stopped. Kanbatoni [Georgian polite form of address of females] Manana mentioned the second clause. Please, listen carefully to my reiteration. I will remind you once again. Clause three: territorial integrity and the refusal to act in order to divide other country's territory is of vital importance. Refusal to use force against a member-state's political independence. Resolving the argument by peaceful means so that international peace and justice are not endangered. One more important regulation—the supremacy of international law in inter-state relations, non-interference in each other's internal and foreign affairs. I would like to stress this phrase, as it was mentioned here that the CIS gives Russia free rein to interfere in the affairs of others. What may happen in actual fact is another matter, and maybe we have grounds for suspicion, but I am merely telling you what regulations and realities we are about to join and what we recognize and what we decline.

Guaranteeing human rights and basic freedoms in every aspect irrespective of race, ethnic origin, language, religion, and so on. This phrase may give rise to a certain doubt but it is the standard recognized by the whole world. [passage omitted]

The possibility of breaching the agreement which we are joining is another issue and in principle, probably, it is difficult to rule it out, but it is better if we joined this agreement, this document together with other countries with which we have many things in common, rather than stay out of it. [passage omitted]

Let me remind you of something. Of course, it is not a normal situation—and I am speaking quite sincerely—when a head of state takes such a decision without asking Parliament and the people. Some may say that I acted irresponsibly, while others may say that I usurped my authority. I would like to remind you in a couple of words when and why I took that decision. And I would appreciate your understanding. [passage omitted]

After the disaster and tragedy unfolded in Abkhazia and we lost Abkhazia and—please, pay special attention to this and your understanding will be appreciated—after Kobalia's units came to the approaches of Kutaisi and Tskhaltubo was almost captured and after civil war became inevitable, a civil war had already begun in Georgia. Let me remind you that I believed that we were almost doomed to a large-scale bloodbath. [passage omitted]

It was during those tragic days that I visited Moscow and asked them to protect the railways and our ports. You remember very well the days when they seized and sacked Poti and Samtredia. All links to Tbilisi and elsewhere were cut off. And the stock of flour and bread in Tbilisi was only enough for three or four days. It is hard to imagine a more difficult situation.

Therefore, at my request, the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan were invited to Moscow, together with me. The four [including Yeltsin] met there and came to the conclusion that a great tragedy might happen not only to Georgia but also the Transcaucasus.

An agreement in principle was reached to protect the arteries somehow. It was agreed that we would decide the rest ourselves.

It was indeed so dramatic and tragic personally for me and probably many of you as well in those days that I must have spoken 10 times with the Black Sea Admiral Baltin. I told him that if he thought my presence necessary I would fly to Sevastopol and meet the personnel. I told him that he had to help the [Georgian] authorities to regain Poti somehow, otherwise hunger and disaster would be inevitable or, alternatively, we had another option of giving up as the dialogue was impossible both with Gamsakhurdia supporters and the leader of the movement. I do not want to mar his name now. We were left with no other option and then I profusely thanked the man [Baltin] who took responsibility on his shoulders and sent several warships to Poti. It was then that the capital and the country were practically saved, if it can be called saving. Georgia has not yet been saved but the prerequisites for it to have been created.

In those days and under such conditions and taking into consideration all that had preceded it, I made this decision [to join the CIS]. Please, do not forget either that [changes thought]... there are witnesses, Baluashvili, deputy prosecutor general, must be present here. Witnesses have been interrogated. Chechen, Cossack, Abkhaz and mercenaries of other nationalities armed to the teeth entered Zugdidi. I personally visited those houses in Senaki and Khobi where they would spend the night, where people got shot. Let us go and ask the native population of that region. These are facts, it is a reality. Therefore, I may be tried, it may happen. I may be sentenced to death through shooting or hanging, but when one is sure that there is no other solution and that this solution may save the people and the country, then I think that one must not shirk the responsibility and I did not do so. You are free to condemn my behavior. Then I made a decision that Georgia had to join the CIS. [passage omitted]

Valeriy Kvaratskhelia voiced an interesting point. He said one sentence to which we did not pay appropriate attention. He asked if entry into the CIS means a certain limiting of those forces in Russia about which Yeltsin spoke in Tbilisi. Will it mean that they will be limited? Yeltsin said that there were forces in Russia, starting from Alaska and as far as the Ukraine, if I remember correctly, who are considering and dreaming of reinstating the empire. [passage omitted]

If certain forces in Russia come to power, they must know that there is another force, that there is the CIS. Russia then will have to leave the CIS. I repeat, it is not a guarantor but one of the factors.

He [Yeltsin] uttered several significant phrases which have to be reckoned with as well. We have mentioned one of these issues several times before. He put it like this: Russia remains responsible for the disruption of talks on the Abkhaz issue. It was a difficult thing to bring oneself to saying this, it was not easy. In principle, I agree with Tedo Paatashvili who said that whoever may be the leader of Russia, Georgia must try to maintain normal relations with Russia. It is a reality. History and God require so. Many things have to be taken into consideration in relations with a great country. [passage omitted]

What affect will it have on the visit to the United States if parliament ratifies this document today? I am grateful to those deputies who expressed their alarm that it may hinder us in achieving a certain success. I have a slightly different principle. I have always had different principles. We must pursue honest politics. I am not going to use the ratification of this document as, so to say, a trump card in a dialogue with the U.S. administration. We have different kind of relations with the United States. A lot has been said here that there are no activists in the West who view Georgia's joining the CIS as a positive event. It is not true. It is a well-known fact in the United States of America and other western countries that Georgia had no other option. What path could we follow? We must use this factor, we have a possibility for it, use the CIS and simultaneously cooperate with everybody. We have relevant guarantees that nobody is going to limit us in doing so, and nobody could. [passage omitted]

I would like to clarify something. Why did we not send two divisions to Sukhumi? It is a question of principle. We had the possibility to do so then. Not only because Gia [Karkarashvili] and Irakli [Batiashvili] said they would resign. No. I still believed; to be more accurate, I did not believe that we would betray each other in the battle for Sukhumi. I did not believe it. There were 8,000 men at the approaches to Sukhumi with equipment and every means. Some 4,000 more men were approaching from Ochamchire and were nearly at the approaches to Gulripshi rayon. Disaster happened. We betrayed each other and in principle, I could not imagine that betrayal of such degree and on such scale would be possible, but I do not want you to imagine that I am alleviating another country's blame for this. I believed and trusted that all of us were united then, both the former president's supporters, Kobalia, and others. I believed it and could not imagine that we could betray each other so. Therefore, I am stressing this fact for the sake of establishing the truth.

The rest must be thought out well. As Zurab Zhvania has said, what will happen if we do not join the CIS? It will be a long discussion. Let us look thoroughly at our present conditions and our future conditions. Therefore, the people, the nation, the country, and the state which are under these circumstances do not have the right to refuse even the slightest chance which is being given to us by nature and God in order to save ourselves. Please, listen with understanding to those arguments which I mentioned in my brief letter given to you and my speech. Thank you.

Further on Shevardnadze, CIS

LD0103204394 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1400 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] According to a report from the secretary of staff to head of state, information from Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze concerning Georgia's joining the CIS was circulated today among the deputies of the Georgian parliament. The information says: The Georgian parliament must make a significant decision today on whether or not Georgia should join the CIS. The significance of this step is stipulated by the choice that our state is faced with today. Today each one of us must decide, as our conscience and intelligence prompts us, whether to follow the path of emotions, illusions and—proceeding from this—dashed hopes, or to make a serious analysis of reality and take a pragmatic attitude to our everyday issues.

The break-up of the Soviet empire on the one hand created 15 independent states, but on the other hand, it created a new danger both for the development and existence of these countries and for the whole world. If events further developed according to this scenario, they would end with a complete catastrophe. This is what stimulated the search for the ways out of the grave situation and in my mind, the creation of the CIS was the result of this search.

In the beginning the CIS was not a structure that could effectively resolve the issues of Georgia and other countries, but, in the meantime, in the process of its self-determination, a whole range of significant issues were being worked out and mechanisms for comprehensive cooperation established. Georgia did participate in the work of different organizations of the CIS, but this was chiefly in the status of an observer, which limited our influence on the process of adopting a decision, and our national interests were not fully observed.

During this period, Georgia tried to regulate relations with other former Soviet republics. A fairly strong legislative basis for bilateral political and economic relations was being dynamically created. However, in the new circumstances and against the background of the processes of regional integration, this did not prove to be enough. The development of the processes within the CIS has once again proved the truth that securing political, military, and economic interests can only be carried out effectively if a bilateral cooperation is replaced by the mechanisms of comprehensive cooperation.

The CIS may not represent a definite guarantee for security, but it is one of the factors for legally securing our territorial integrity and the inviolability of our borders.

The regulations of the CIS also envisage the creation of mechanisms for the member-states' collective security, eradicating conflicts, and peacefully resolving disputes.

The realization of the CIS regulations will help restore broken economic links and develop them on a completely new basis which is a necessary prerequisite for the reforms for transition to a market economy.

Thus, becoming a member of the CIS will help our country to establish its place in the network of international and regional relations, to become a part of the mechanisms of comprehensive cooperation, and to use agreements on collective security and economic cooperation for reinforcing with law the country's territorial integrity, influencing the development of regional processes, and creating prerequisites for overcoming the economic crisis.

By becoming a CIS member, our country is proving its aspiration for civilized development of international relations and is getting additional means for improving the country's social and economic situation; it is becoming a fully-fledged member of the CIS with all relevant rights and, of course, responsibilities.

The CIS is in its initial stage of formation. The process of its formation is developing in quite a conflicting manner. Issues are seldom resolved without hot debates. Discussions are often uncompromising and severe.

Will the West react negatively to Georgia's joining the CIS? There are different points of view on this issue in Georgia's political circles. I have the following point of view: Many inter-governmental structures have been created since World War II. Most of them proved viable and many countries poorer than Georgia have found their way out from the crisis and poverty. The CIS must share this experience; there will be then less ground for doubts and we can show everybody what we can do.

The fact that we have already signed comprehensive agreements on friendship, cooperation, good-neighborliness, and mutual assistance with most of the CIS states gives us the hope that on the basis of work with natural allies we will be able to set up the CIS as a civilized and integrated union, and Georgia can make its honorable contribution in this respct.

I am sure that our active participation in the CIS will assist in overcoming the current crisis, promoting stabilization, and halting the decline in the population's standard of living.

[Signed] Eduard Shevardnadze

Georgia Supportive of Russian Peacekeeping Troops

LD0103174694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1412 GMT 1 Mar 94

Georgia's First Vice Foreign Minister Mikhail Ukleba says the UN Security Council must adopt a resolution on sending peacekeepers to the region if the next round of peace talks with Abkhazia due in New York on March 7 fails.

Speaking in Moscow on Tuesday, he said Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, who would be visiting the U.S. at the time, might address a Security Council meeting on March 9.

Georgia is supportive of the idea of Russian troops being moved into the region and of giving them the status of peacekeepers, Ukleba told Interfax. At the same time, he spoke of UN fears that as a neighboring state, Russia may fail to stay neutral.

Ukleba expressed regret over the failure of the previous round in Geneva, blaming it on "the destructive position" taken by Abkhazia.

He said the warring sides were expected to sign two documents - a statement on measures for a negotiated settlement to the regional conflict and an agreement for the return of refugees and displaced persons to Abkhazia.

However, Abkhazia did not sign the statement because of being opposed to a clause on Georgia's territorial integrity, Ukleba said. And he added that the Abkhazians must opt out of the talks if they do not recognize Georgia's integrity as indicated by UN resolutions.

On the refugee issue, Ukleba said that as a pre-condition for signing an agreement, Abkhazia insisted on screening Georgian refugees to see whether or not they fought against Abkhazia.

Tbilisi puts the number of Georgians fleeing from Abkhazia at more than 300,000.

New Constitution Provides for Unitarian State

LD0203140094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1237 GMT 2 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Toilisi March 2 TASS—Georgia's new constitution provides for the building of a unitarian state with autonomies, a constitutional commission member told ITAR-TASS. He said the draft of the new constitution has been finalized, although some politicians in the republic have stated their preference for the federation idea.

But even federalists insist that the component parts of a Georgian Federation should not be granted the right of secession. They believe nonetheless that this would remove support for separatism and help the republic to get rid of conflicts on the ethnic grounds.

Official Comments on Armenian Declarations

NC0103211694 Yerevan SNARK in English 1559 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Tbilisi, March 1 (SNARK)—Aleksandr Kavsadze, chairman of the Human Rights' Protection commission of the Georgian Parliament expressed his bewilderment on the recent declarations of Armenian leaders.

The other day Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan declared that Georgia will have nothing to do but to accept Armenian provisions. Earlier Armenia suggested to exchange some amount of gas, bought by her from Turkmenistan, with free shipment through Georgian territory.

"Such declarations won't promote our relations", Aleksandr Kavsadze told SNARK. In his opinion, "when the situation is difficult you should not to make such statements but to solve all the problems in consent. Moreover it is inadmissible to scare each other," said Georgian Deputy.

Estonia

Foreign Ministry Statement on Russian Withdrawal

WS0103154694 Tallinn BNS in English 1330 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 01, BNS—Following is the official text of Estonian Foreign Ministry's statement from Monday [28 February]:

In response to Russian Foreign Ministry official A. Udaltsov's announcement that Russia has backed away from the mutually agreed upon date for final withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia, the Estonian Foreign Ministry expressed the hope that this was just one official's attempt to influence the 17th round of talks beginning today outside Tallinn. However, if Russia officially no longer accepts August 31, 1994 as the final date, Estonia may seriously have to consider breaking off the talks.

In interviews with Interfax and BNS February 28, Mr. Udaltsov also tied final withdrawal to "social guarantees" for military retirees and their families, directly contradicting previous Russian promises as well as CSCE and United Nations documents which specify and require unconditional withdrawal. The Udaltsov statements potentially negate the substantial progress made in the 16th round of talks held February 1-2 in Moscow.

Despite repeated promises, Russia still has not presented a withdrawal timetable as required by international practice. Nevertheless, Estonia made a concession in Moscow and accepted the August 31, 1994 date as proposed by the Russian side in the 15th round of talks.

The Estonian delegation will do everything possible to ensure that the withdrawal agreement is initialed in the current round of talks. The Estonian side is also willing to discuss the question of social welfare for Russian military pensioners, but this does not mean that Estonia is prepared to tie that issue in any way to the withdrawal of troops.

Russian Official Comments

WS0103204194 Tallinn BNS in English 1720 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Excerpts] Tallinn, Mar 01, BNS—Alexandr Udaltsov, a senior official at the Russian Foreign Ministry in charge of Baltic affairs, today voiced his surprise at Estonian Foreign Ministry statement.

Udaltsov told BNS Estonia "is long since familiar with Russia's official position" on troop withdrawal, which does not accept Aug. 31 as the final, mutually agreed upon deadline for the pullout of its armed forces from Estonia.

"It is unclear why (Estonia) attempts to build this position up as a news item," the Russian diplomat said. "If the Estonian side is seeking a pretext to break off the talks, Estonians should admit they see no point in continuing the negotiations." [passage omitted]

Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar said at a press conference today that, if Russia officially announces it will change the troop withdrawal deadline, Estonia will break off the talks.

"The pullout of Russian troops from Estonia has slowed down since the beginning of the year," the premier noted. "If Russia had continued the withdrawal at the same pace as in past years, the troops would have left Estonia in the first months of this year."

Negotiator on Udaltsov Remarks

WS0103204394 Tallinn BNS in English 1910 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 01, BNS—Vasiliy Svirin, head of the Russian negotiating team, today assured the Estonian team that press statements made by Russian Foreign Ministry official A. Udaltsov February 28 do not reflect official Russian government policy.

Despite continuing attempts by the Russian side to make withdrawal conditional and despite a spiraling Russian campaign of accusations and intimidation, the Estonian negotiating team described the withdrawal agreement as "practically ready" going into the current round of talks being held March 1-2 outside Tallinn. The final date for full withdrawal, August 31, 1994, was agreed upon at the 16th round. The Russians still have not presented a timetable, however.

The slow-down in both the withdrawal of troops and the turn-over of military installations to Estonian authorities began in October 1993 and has continued to date. Although the number of Russian troops stationed in Estonia is now about 2,600, hundreds of military sites, bases, training fields, depots, airfields, housing units and intelligence and communications centers remain under Russian control. These are mostly located in the capital city of Tallinn and in surrounding Harju County. About 70 of these are of particular concern to Estonia due to their size, strategic importance or the presence of hazardous materials.

Important Russian military storage facilities include Maenniku and Klooga ammunition dumps (3500 tons), the 2748th Mine Storage Facility, the 2753rd Mortar Shell Base (7500 tons of ammunition and explosives), the 690th Chemical Storage (300 tons), the 2577th Technical Storage, the 2754th Mine and Torpedo Base, the 2394th Mine and Torpedo Storage, and the 3063rd Fuel Storage (above ground tanks plus underground storage 400 meters long). High levels of radioactivity detected at the Chemical Storage has caused further delays there. On the positive side, according to the Russians, the number of mines stored on Naissaar has been reduced to 450, all scheduled to have been burned by April 1.

The Russian armed forces are primarily stationed at the Tallinn Naval Base, the 144th Motorized Division, the 93rd Naval Training Center with two nuclear reactors in Paldiski, the Russian Navy's Radio Intelligence Unit, and the Naval Auxiliary Control Center.

According to Russian negotiators, nearly 6,000 of the pensioned Russian military in Estonia are men under the age of sixty. Over 1,000 of these are under the age of fifty, with fully 360 younger than 45 years of age. In addition, there may be as many as 5,000 officers who have left or are leaving the Russian military without qualifying for pensions. There is no way for Estonian authorities to record or check such individuals. According to the Estonian Security Police Board, the continuing presence of former Soviet occupation troops in Estonia increases political tensions, destabilizes society, and directly increases crime.

Prime Minister Warns Russian Talks Near Deadlock

WS0203103294 Tallinn ETA in English 0759 GMT 2 Mar 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 41/94]

[Text] The Estonian-Russian negotiations continued in Lohusalu yesterday. The plenary session was followed by the discussions of different work groups. Another plenary session is to take place today.

The Russian Foreign Ministry announced the replacement of six delegation members. The new members include the head of administration of the Leningrad region Alexander Belyakov, deputy head of administration of the Pskov region Viktor Zvonkov, deputy head of the Russian Federal Migration Service Yuri Roshtchin and department head of the Russian Ministry of Nationalities and Ethnic Policy Lev Shishov. The latter used to be a high-ranking official of the Estonian Communist Party in the Soviet period.

Head of the Russian delegation Vasily Svirin expressed his hopes of making progress in the key issues—the situation of the Russian-speaking residents and the troops withdrawal. Svirin assured that the withdrawal deadline, August 31, is definite, provided Estonia will finance the construction of apartments and will agree with Russia to give up demands for compensation for the military bases and the ecological damage caused by the military. But he added that "Estonia does not meet those three requirements at present and the final troop withdrawal deadline will be agreed upon only after the signing of the corresponding agreements."

The Foreign Ministry announced that the Estonian-Russian negotiations may be suspended if the claims of the Russian Foreign Ministry official Alexander Udaltsov will become an official government position. Estonia is willing to discuss all issues including the one on the military pensioners, but will not link them to the troops withdrawal, the Foreign Ministry stressed.

Prime Minister Mart Laar described the Russian statements as an attempt to influence Estonia and present new demands. Laar added that the negotiations are practically at a deadlock and pointed out that Russia has stopped the withdrawal of its troops from January 1.

The Russian Foreign Ministry official Udaltsov expressed his surprise at the Estonian Foreign Ministry statement and claimed that the Estonian side had been long aware that August 31 was not an officially agreed-upon deadline.

President Visits Helsinki, Discusses Security

WS0103151594 Tallinn ETA in English 0812 GMT 1 Mar 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 40/94]

[Text] President Lennart Meri visited Helsinki over the weekend and met President-elect Martti Ahtisaari. They discussed the security problems of the Baltic Sea countries, development of economic and cultural cooperation and Finland's negotiations with the EU. President Meri invited Ahtisaari to visit Estonia.

Meri also met President Mauno Koivisto. He expressed the gratitude of the Estonian nation for the support to Estonia during Koivisto's term of office. He invited Mauno and Mrs. Koivisto to visit Estonia.

President Meri received a letter from Polish President Lech Walesa, the presidential chancellery announced. The letter concerned a recommendation made by Meri in Jurmala in August 1993 to form a joint energy system. President Walesa expressed his interest in the idea, stressing that a close cooperation of the Baltic Sea countries would be beneficial to all partners.

Latvia

Foreign Ministry Reacts to Skrunda Explosion

LD0103194294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1857 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] The Latvian Foreign Ministry expressed the hope that the explosion that destroyed a pylon of the power line supplying the Russian radar station in Skrunda would not affect the next round of Russo-Latvian talks due to start in Moscow on March 14.

The ministry's press secretary Ivars Embrekts, who told Interfax this, said: "We hope that the Russian authorities will understand that the Latvian government never approved of such activities and will do its best to make their repetition impossible."

He said that the investigation would be carried out by the criminal police and the prosecutor general's office in cooperation with officials of the Russian army and the Skrunda station.

Embrekts thought that the explosion could have been "organized either by those who want to obstruct the Russo-Latvian talks or common thugs who did not even know that important strategic assets of the Russian army were nearby. In any case the perpetrators will be punished in compliance with the Latvian law."

According to Embrekts, this was the essence of what Vladimir Ionkin, first secretary of the Russian embassy in Riga who handed a protest note to the Latvian Foreign Ministry, had been told.

Russian Forces Issue Statement

LD0103115394 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1100 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] On Sunday night [as heard], a pylon of a 110 kv high-tension power line between Broceni and Skrunda, 3 km from the Skrunda radar station, was blown up. An investigation into the incident is currently under way. The explosives used have not been identified yet. The Skrunda radar station is still receiving power via another power line from Tukums. Valdis Lidumnieks, head of the Broceni substation group of the high-tension power network, reports that the power supply via the damaged line will be resumed today.

The press center of the Northwestern Group of [Russian] Forces circulated a statement today saying that a joint commission of representatives of Latvenergo, the criminal police, and the Skrunda radar station assessed the explosion as an act of sabotage. A rapid reaction group from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, headed by Gunars Liepins, the senior investigator of the Latvian prosecutor's office for particularly serious (?cases), has left for the scene of the incident.

Russian Foreign Ministry Reaction

LD0103230294 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 2100 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Excerpts] The explosion of a pylon on the electricity line supplying electric power to the Russian military site was sabotage. [passage omitted] Here is Ritums Rozenbergs reporting by phone from Moscow:

[Rozenbergs] Commenting on the blowing up of an electricity pylon of the Skrunda military site, (Sergey Grikhayko), head of the Baltic Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, stated the following: We hope that the Latvian authorities will adopt all necessary measures to clarify the causes and perpetrators of the incident, and we hope that this action will not affect the talks by our groups of experts and will not disturb the documents we have agreed on for the short term and the agreements signed on military questions.

It seems that the Russian side's reaction to the explosion of the pylon will not arouse broad debate. At the moment Russia has on its agenda questions of a much more serious scale. First, the spy trial has to be concluded; second, it has to go on settling the question of the Bosnian Serbs; third, the debate on the consequences of the amnesty has to be concluded. Ritums Rozenbergs, special correspondent for the newspaper LABRIT in Moscow, specially for Latvian Radio.

Fire at Paldiski Russian Military Base

LD0103230694 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 2100 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] An event that is possibly linked to the Skrunda incident: On Monday evening at the closed Russian military unit in the Estonian town of Paldiski a fire broke out. At the Russian military unit the barracks were burned. The fire was brought under control after about 90 minutes. The Paldiski police were not allowed into the scene of the fire. Russian Army officers expressed the view that this was deliberate arson, motivated by the fact that part of the military site has been pulled down. Possibly the fire broke out as the result of soldiers' negligence.

Officials Comment on Yeltsin Report at Parliament

WS0103155294 Tallinn BNS in English 1030 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Riga, Mar 01, BNS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin's February 24 report at the Russian parliament was well thought over in contrast to the Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozirev's frequent and inconsiderate statements, Aleksandrs Kirsteins, chairman of Latvian parliament foreign committee, said Monday [28 February] at the press conference in Saeima [parliament] house. Kirsteins noted that Yeltsin's report shows that it is impossible to forecast trends in Russian foreign and interior policy.

Kirsteins said that Latvia could agree to the Yeltsin's statement about the necessity to sign an agreement with Russia on minorities rights' protection so that it was possible to regulate the Russian minority's social status in Latvia.

Kirsteins thinks that placing matters related to Skrunda radar in the center of the interstate talks was just a political maneuver because, at the same time, Russia does not want to sign the agreement with Latvia and Russia's demands concerning Russian retired military personnel and its further stay in Latvia are unacceptable for Latvia.

In return, Faction Latvian Way leader Andrejs Pantelejevs noted that Russian presidents' report is an encouragement for Latvia to integrate sooner into Europe by passing a law on citizenship. Pantelejevs informed that the representatives of European Council will visit Latvia next week to discuss the possible Latvia's joining this organization.

Lithuania

Army Chief Denies Russian Servicemen in Lithuania

LD0103143794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1223 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] There are neither Russian troops, nor Russian servicemen on the territory of the Lithuanian Republic. There are only Russian citizens who arrive in the republic to see their families, INTERFAX was told by the Chief of the General Staff of the Lithuanian Army Stasys Knezys.

The statements about the presence of some other Russian servicemen in the republic, said Knezys, are groundless. The general staff of the Lithuanian Army has no information about incidents involving Russian servicemen, he said.

The statement was a response to the recent claim by the former commander of the coastal guard division, stationed

in the Lithuanian port of Klaipeda, Major General Ivan Chernykh, that staying in Klaipeda are approximately 150 Russian officers "whose future has not been decided by the Russian Defence Ministry." He said that Lithuanian law enforcement bodies attempted last week to arrest one of the officers, Colonel Vitaliy Yegorov, who had been warned in advance and escaped the arrest.

Russian Diplomat Dismisses PRAVDA Report

WS0103204494 Tallinn BNS in English 1910 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Vilnius, Mar 01, BNS—A Russian diplomat in Lithuania denied as "not corresponding to reality" reports by the Russian PRAVDA newspaper that the Lithuanian prosecutor's office planned a provocation against the so called Association of Russian Citizens in Lithuania.

In its Jan. 18 issue, PRAVDA, the newspaper of the Russian communists, said the provocation failed thanks to "the firm position of a Russian Embassy representative."

PRAVDA said the provocation started with the interrogation of Valentin Meshcheriakov, leader of the association, which is "the last legal organization that openly defends the interests of our fellow-countrymen in that republic."

Meshcheriakov was interrogated in the presence of Nikolay Sokolov, counselor of the Russian Embassy in Vilnius. The Russian diplomat said he disagrees with the definition "firm position." Sokolov said he did not get the impression that this was a provocation against the association or its members.

The Lithuanian Prosecutor General's Office confirmed that Meshcheriakov was interrogated Feb. 14, but only as a witness in relation to the failed 1991 Soviet coup attempt in Lithuania, and not as a person suspected of "sabotage."

In a communique presented to the Russian Embassy in Lithuania, the prosecutor's office said a Russian diplomat was allowed to be present during the interrogation, although the Lithuanian Procedural Code does not provide for such a possibility. This was done to avoid any biassed evaluations of the act, the communique said.

The prosecutor's office said Meshcheriakov confirmed that his association is not officially registered in Lithuania. The Lithuanian Prosecutor General's Office also categorically denied allegations of sanctioning an arrest of 25 association members.

Minister on Continued Russian Oil Supplies

WS0103161194 Tallinn BNS in English 1330 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Vilnius, Mar 01, BNS—It would be a complete disaster to Lithuania if the Russian Lucoil company would refuse to supply oil to the Mazeikiai oil refinery, said Lithuanian Energy Minister Algimantas Stasiukynas.

In an interview with the LIETUVOS RYTAS newspaper, Stasiukynas said the Lithuanian refinery gets many suggestions to buy Russian oil but does not have enough money. The minister said Mazeikiai will nevertheless purchase some oil from companies which can wait for payment.

Stasiukynas commented on the suspension of an oil export license issued to Lucoil. A decision to suspend the license was made by the Russian International Economic Relations Ministry Feb. 16 "to clear up the circumstances of oil trade." Lucoil is blamed for cooperation with the Baltic states, LIETUVOS RYTAS said with reference to a high-ranking Russian energy official.

Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas was unable to comment on the fact during a press conference Monday [28 February]. Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius said he does not have any information about the temporary ban.

Dzhevan Chalakhayants, Lucoil vice president, told the newspaper that "there were problems related to oil supplies to Mazeikiai," but, in his words, the company will be allowed to export oil again in March. Commenting on cooperation with the Lithuanian refinery, he said Lucoil never promised to supply oil to Lithuania but only refines it in Mazeikiai.

Bronislovas Vainora, Mazeikiai director general, said the ban will not affect the refinery because the oil supplied by Lucoil is not regarded as export. He said Mazeikiai only refines oil and gets 20 percent of the ready production for work.

Vainora noted that the refinery did not violate any agreements with Lucoil. In his view, Russian officials simply decided to check whether cooperation between Lucoil and Lithuania is efficient and whether production returns to Russia. This is not the first time that Lucoil's rivals initiate such a check-up, Vainora said.

According to a contract between Mazeikiai and Lucoil, the Russian company will refine 6 million tons of oil in Lithuania by 1997.

Mazeikiai refined 3 million tons of oil last year and will presumably refine as much as 6 million tons from different sources this year.

President Remains Most Popular Politician

WS0103161294 Tallinn BNS in English 1330 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Vilnius, Mar 01, BNS—The most recent public opinion poll in Lithuania indicates that President Algirdas Brazauskas continues to top the list of most popular politicians after a year spent in office.

The principal tendency remains the same—political leaders are gradually losing popularity. Aloyzas Sakalas, leader of the Social Democratic Party, was the only exception during the period between mid-January and mid-February.

The results of the poll conducted by the British-Lithuanian Baltic Surveys company suggest the following list of top ten Lithuanian politicians:

Algirdas Brazauskas—56 percent /-2/
Egidijus Bickauskas—50 percent /-3/
Romualdas Ozolas—46 percent /-1/
Kazimieras Antanavicius—41 percent /0/
Vytautas Landsbergis—35 percent /-5/
Adolfas Slezevicius —33 percent /-4/
Gediminas Vagnorius—28 percent /0/
Aloyzas Sakalas—28 percent /+1/
Ceslovas Jursenas—27 percent /-1/
Povilas Gylys—18 percent /0/